

Sheikh Sabah arrives in Syria

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — The head of an Arab League committee trying to end Lebanon's political crisis arrived in Damascus Friday to brief Syrian leaders on their efforts, officials said. They said Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, Kuwait's foreign minister, would have talks with Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa on the committee's meeting in Tunis this week with the leaders of Lebanon's two governments. The six foreign ministers held talks with acting Prime Minister Selim Hoss and General Michel Aoun, who heads a rival administration. After three days of talks, Sheikh Sabah said the leaders remained at odds but his committee would continue contacts with other parties in Lebanon.

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Jordan explains stand on Jerusalem

MELBOURNE (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said Thursday that Jordan has always been keen on maintaining its strong ties with the occupied Holy City of Jerusalem despite the Kingdom's decision last July to sever legal and administrative relations with the occupied West Bank.

In an address read out on his behalf by Kamel Al Sharif, former minister of awqaf and Islamic affairs, to the fifth International Conference on Religion and Peace, Prince Hassan said that Jordan had succeeded throughout the last 20 years to create the appropriate circumstances for religious coexistence based on brotherhood, leniency and good neighborhood despite the constraints and problems posed by the exigencies of war.

The Crown Prince said that Jordan had risen above political situations and unsustainable circumstances and continued to direct the necessary attention and care to the Christian and Muslim holy places in Jerusalem.

Prince Hassan noted that Jerusalem had a special significance to followers of all the monotheistic religions and stressed the right of every party to freely practice its religious rights.

Prince Hassan voiced appreciation for the noble motives expressed by nuns and clergymen to hold such conferences as the one in Melbourne aimed at enhancing mutual understanding between followers of the monotheistic faiths and finding a stronger current advocating peace based on right and justice.

The Crown Prince also said that religions follow an approach for peace that might be different from that traditional approach of politicians in responsible positions.

The fact that this region is the cradle of the three monotheistic religions should serve as a motive for believers in these three religions to resort to reconciliation and peace rather than wars, he said.

Prince Hassan recalled the various wars which erupted throughout the ages around the walls of Jerusalem and said that the political power currently dominating the scene there ignores opportunities for peace, refuses to listen to the voice of mind, and prepares for new confrontations.

HRH Crown Prince Hassan

Amman meeting to lay economic foundations for 4-member bloc

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan, Egypt, North Yemen and Iraq will name a planned sub-regional economic bloc the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC), according to Jordanian officials and Arab diplomats quoted by Reuters.

The prime ministers of the four states would lay the foundations for the ACC group during a meeting in Amman in February, before its creation is formally declared during a planned summit, Reuters quoted the officials and diplomats as saying.

The bloc will be geared towards economic cooperation and membership will be open for any Arab country that does not belong to the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) or the planned Maghreb Union between Mauritania, Tunisia, Libya, Algeria and Morocco.

Prime Minister Zaid Rifai said in Cairo last week that work was under way to form the regional group, and that the issue came under discussion at the Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee meeting that was held in Amman under the co-chairmanship of the Jordanian and Egyptian prime ministers.

A group of Jordanian and Egyptian businessmen has just completed talks in the Egyptian town of Luxor by announcing plans to boost efforts for the formation of the new bloc.

A statement at the end of the meeting said the two sides decided to set up a group to prepare a working paper containing proposals that would attain the greatest possible benefits from the projected group.

Palestinians enforce boycott of Israeli goods in W. Bank

NABLUS, occupied West Bank (Agencies) — Masked Palestinians raided shops in Nablus at least twice this week, snatched Israeli-made sweets from the shelves and trampled on them in the streets, witnesses said Friday.

In another incident, a group of protesters took away Israeli tax forms from merchants and burned them in the street.

The United National Leadership of the Uprising has issued leaflets calling on Palestinians to boycott Israeli goods and refuse to pay taxes to the occupation authorities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israeli sources say the revenue of the West Bank "civil administration" was halved last year because of the Palestinian uprising which began in December 1987.

In the Gaza Strip, Israeli troops shot and wounded a 13-year-old boy in the Sba'i refugee camp Friday, Palestinians said.

Palestinians hurled a burning object, believed to be a firebomb, at an Israeli bus carrying workers near Jerusalem, Palestinians reported. No one was injured.

Minors held for weeks
A lawyer said Friday Palestinian minors from Arab east Jerusalem are routinely held for weeks without bail on charges of throwing stones or erecting roadblocks.

In other cases, children under 13 whom the law does not consider legally responsible are held for days because their parents can't pay bail, said attorney Shlomo Lecker.

He said an 11-year-old and two 13-year-olds were detained for five days each in a cell at the Russian compound, the Jerusalem police headquarters, because their parents could not come up with 750 shekels (\$415) bail.

Palestinian minors appearing before military courts in the occupied West Bank are routinely held without bail until the start of their trial, but before the beginning of the Palestinian uprising in December 1987, the practice was rare, Lecker said.

Nine left-wing Israeli legislators wrote a letter to Justice Minister Dan Meridor asking that the practice of holding minors be stopped.

Dedi Zucker, a legislator from the Citizens Rights Movement, said the practice began a year ago after the supreme court ruled that minors — those between the ages of 14 and 18 — can be held without bail until the start of trial if they are charged with throwing stones.

Since then, several dozen Palestinian minors have been held for several weeks under such conditions.

The average sentence for stone-throwing is two months, Lecker said, adding that "some of these kids... end up spending half the sentence in jail, even if they are innocent."

In other developments, Palestinian lawyers Thursday extended for another month their boycott of West Bank military courts.

The lawyers launched the boycott Jan. 3 to protest the lack of due process for their clients, and said they decided to continue the protest because the Israeli authorities have not responded to

Peking formally invites Gorbachev

PEKING (AP) — China Friday formally invited Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to come to Peking for their nations' first summit in 30 years, and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze accepted.

The meeting between Gorbachev and senior Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping is expected to formally normalize relations that turned hostile in 1960 when their predecessors quarrelled over the border and leadership of the world communist movement.

"The coming Chinese-Soviet summit will be an event of great significance," the official Xinhua news agency quoted Premier Li Peng as telling Shevardnadze in a meeting Friday. He said the normalization of ties will "help promote world peace and stability."

"It's official," Soviet embassy spokesman Vacheslav Dulin said later at a news briefing. He said Shevardnadze would make an announcement about the date Saturday, after consulting with Deng.

However, he said only a vague date may be announced, such as late April or mid-May. So far, both sides have said only that it should be held in the first half of the year.

Shevardnadze, who arrived in Peking Wednesday on the first such visit by a Soviet foreign minister in 30 years, flew Friday night to Shanghai and planned to meet Deng there Saturday.

Dulin said he had heard Deng was in Shanghai for medical examinations, but later qualified that he had heard only rumors, nothing special.

"Certainly we don't have official information about the health of Chinese leaders," he said. Rumors that the 84-year-old Deng is in poor health have been circulating around Peking this winter as every year, but there has been nothing to confirm them.

LAST-MINUTE NEWS

Ibn Ali, Qasem hold talks
TUNIS (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem met here Thursday with Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ibn Ali and conveyed to him greetings and best wishes from His Majesty King Hussein. Ibn Ali and Qasem reviewed bilateral relations and means to bolster and develop them. They also discussed the recent developments on the Arab and international arenas and efforts for peace and stability in the Middle East and reviewed the outcome of a meeting of a six-member Arab committee entrusted with settling the Lebanese constitutional crisis.

Panel on uprising to meet Monday
TUNIS (Petra) — The seven-member Arab committee entrusted with supporting the Palestinian uprising will hold a meeting here Monday at the level of the permanent representatives to the Arab League. The committee comprises representatives of Jordan, Syria, Iraq, Tunisia, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, the Palestine Liberation Organisation and the Arab League General Secretariat.

Iraq beats Jordan in World Cup match
BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq beat Jordan 4-0 (halftime 2-0) in a World Cup West Asia Group One qualifying soccer match Friday. Scorers: Ahmad Radhi (26th, 43rd, 67th and 80th minutes).

Israel unhappy over Nazi comparison
TEL AVIV (R) — A U.N. officer in South Lebanon accused Israel forces this week of acting like Nazis, Israel radio said Friday. The report said Israel lodged a complaint with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) over remarks by a Norwegian battalion commander, J.E. Karlsen. Israel radio reporter Haim Hecht said Karlsen had been denouncing the Israeli-backed South Lebanese Army's (SLA) expulsions of residents from villages in Israel's self-declared "security zone." Military sources estimated the SLA has expelled some 70 residents of Shabaa village at the foot of Mount Hermon in the last two months on suspicion of resistance activities. Four others were expelled from the eastern sector of the "security zone" this week, Israeli sources said. Karlsen made the remarks during a meeting between about 20 Israeli and UNIFIL commanders in South Lebanon Thursday, Hecht said.

Palestinian embassy opened in Havana
HAVANA (R) — A Palestinian embassy was opened in Havana Friday, the first such diplomatic representation in the Americas. Cuba was one of the first countries to recognise the independent Palestinian state declared in November. The embassy will replace the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) mission which had existed for a number of years.

French envoy arrives in Beirut for talks on Lebanon's crisis
BEIRUT (R) — A French government envoy arrived in Lebanon on Friday for talks on a four-month-old political crisis threatening the country with partition. Jean Francois Deniau, vice-president of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Assembly, arrived at the airport in west Beirut by private jet and was driven by embassy car to the east. Embassy sources said he was due to start talks with senior Lebanese officials Saturday about the crisis, which began in September when parliament failed to elect a successor to President Amin Gemayel.

Velayati to attend U.N. talks on truce observers

NICOSIA (R) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati will attend a meeting of the U.N. Security Council next week on extending the mandate of the U.N. force monitoring the Gulf ceasefire, according to the Iranian news agency IRNA.

Israel plays down Mubarak criticism

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — A top aide to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir Friday played down Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's barbs criticism of Israel over the disputed Taba resort, saying the issue had not created a crisis in relations.

Mubarak accused Israel Thursday of jeopardising relations by its "repulsive" equivocation over withdrawing from the beachfront territory it seized in the 1967 war.

Mubarak made the remarks even though the Israeli cabinet Wednesday said it was committed to withdrawal and would return Taba within two to three weeks of settling other outstanding issues with the Egyptians.

Yossi Ben Aharon, director general of the prime minister's office, said the cabinet decision showed Israel "wants to send the message to Egypt there is no crisis here."

"We have to tell them... come, let's solve the problem in direct negotiations. We solved all the problems until now, problems that were a lot more difficult... this is a problem that can be solved," Ben Aharon said on Israel army radio.

Industry and Trade Minister Ariel Sharon, meanwhile, said he believed Israel should consider destroying the luxury Sonesta hotel before returning Taba to Egypt.

"With relations as expressed through the sharp... statements from Egypt, we certainly have to consider this possibility," Sharon said on Israel Radio.

General Slavko Jovic, commander of the U.N. Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIMOG), said in Baghdad Wednesday that the formation of a military working group bringing together officers from Iran and Iraq was under study.

Iraq said Sunday during Eliasson's visit to Baghdad that it was ready to join such a group. Velayati described this as a positive step and said Iran had accepted the idea when it was first proposed soon after peace talks began Aug. 25.

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Shevardnadze due in Pakistan today for crucial Afghan talks

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze makes a 17-hour visit to this capital Saturday in a last flurry of diplomatic activity aimed at averting further bloodshed in Afghanistan once Soviet troops are gone.

His 17-hour visit comes less than two weeks before the Soviet army is scheduled to complete its troop withdrawal from Afghanistan following a nine-year military intervention to back the government against rebels.

Shevardnadze is the highest-ranking Soviet official to visit Pakistan in more than 20 years. He was scheduled to arrive Saturday at 11 p.m. (1800 GMT) and to depart at 4 p.m. (1100 GMT) Sunday.

Soviet Defence Minister Dmitri Yazov visited Kabul in January.

"We hope our talks with the Soviet leader will pave the way for a peaceful settlement, although the situation on the ground in Afghanistan is depressing," a Pakistani government spokesman said recently.

He was referring to reports of continued fighting between communist forces and the rebels, especially along the main Soviet withdrawal route from Kabul north to the Soviet border.

Mujahedeen forces are trying to lay siege to Kabul and other main cities such as Kandahar, southwest of Kabul, and Jalalabad, across the frontier from Peshawar, to force government troops to surrender.

Afghan President Najibullah declared firmly that his government would continue in power after the Feb. 15 departure of the Soviet troops.

"I will say it clearly: Yes. Yes, we will survive. We have sufficient forces to defend the people's sovereignty," he told a news conference Thursday.

Looking confident and smiling often, Najibullah said only history could judge whether the Soviet intervention of December 1979 had proved a mistake or not.

The news conference was held two days after the United States evacuated its last 11 diplomats from Kabul on security grounds, while several other Western countries considered similar steps.

The U.S.-backed rebels are blockading Kabul in a bid to overthrow the Najibullah government after the Soviet Union withdraws the last soldier of a force that once numbered 115,000.

Najibullah fiercely attacked Pakistan, blaming the entire conflict in Afghanistan on the neighbor.

boring state and its U.S. allies. Pakistan had stepped up the arming, training and assisting of the Mujahedeen guerrillas in contravention of last April's Geneva agreement, he said.

Under the agreement, brokered by the United Nations, Moscow agreed to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan.

Since the signing of the accord, the rebels had killed 6,954 people and injured 12,200 in bomb, mortar and rocket attacks, Najibullah said.

Also Thursday, Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati concluded two days of meetings in Pakistan by urging the divisive rebel coalitions — one based in Iran and one based in Pakistan — to reach agreement on forming a new Afghan government.

The rebels are at odds among themselves over representation of the Iranian and Pakistani groups in a transition period or a new government. However, the rebels have so far unanimously rejected any role for members of Najibullah's government.

The rebels from Pakistan and Iran are still at odds over a critical consultative council meeting but it will go ahead on schedule next week, a top negotiator said Thursday.

Gulhuddin Hekmatyar told a new conference he had offered eight Iran-based rebel groups 10 seats each on the council, or "shura," designed to approve an interim government for Afghanistan.



Eduard Shevardnadze

The Iran-based groups, from the Shi'ite sect of Islam, rejected the offer but negotiations would continue, said Hekmatyar, head of one of the seven Mujahedeen groups based in Pakistan.

The seven, from the majority Sunni sect, would each send 60 delegates to the Shura.

The Iran-based groups are demanding 120 seats, a number they say would represent the percentage of Shi'ite Afghans.

"Now the ball is in their court," said Hekmatyar, who went to Iran last week for negotiations. "We expect they will respond and we are awaiting their reply."

Court rejects RJ hijack suspect's quest

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal appeals court has ruled that a man charged in the 1985 hijacking of a Royal Jordanian (RJ) airliner is not entitled to inspect classified transcripts of his conversations with an informant that were covertly recorded by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

A three-judge panel of the U.S. circuit court of appeals here ruled that the trial judge in the case of Fawaz Younis was wrong in ordering the Justice Department to turn over the classified documents.

U.S. District Judge Barrington D. Parker had ruled that Younis, charged with leading the RJ hijacking in Beirut, was entitled to see the transcripts of his conversations with Jamal Hamdan to prepare his defense.

The Justice Department had appealed Parker's ruling, saying that disclosure of the transcripts would jeopardize the intelligence methods used to intercept the conversations.

The appellate panel agreed, saying, "the contents of the transcripts were on the whole not relevant to the defendant's guilt or innocence and the few statements that were even marginally relevant were not sufficiently helpful or beneficial to the defense to overcome the classified information privilege."

The court, in an opinion dated Monday by Judge David Sentelle, said the government had a legitimate national security concern about releasing the transcripts.

Younis was arrested in September 1987.

Maghreb set for union

By Jonathan Clayton
Reuters

RABAT — Five heads of state will meet in Marrakesh this month to look at ways of forging a North African union bringing together some 62 million people from Morocco's Atlantic coast to Libya's eastern border.

The latest of the world's trade blocs — to be known as the Arab Maghreb Union — would link Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Libya and Mauritania in a form of common market.

It aims to strengthen the region's link in international trade talks by welding very different economies into an entity equipped to meet the challenges of the 1990s.

Supporters say the countries' economies complement each other and the alliance will enable them to capitalise on extensive natural resources.

Libya and Algeria are overflowing with oil and natural gas, but are short of consumer goods and have neglected agriculture. Morocco has a virtual monopoly in phosphates and produces tonnes of fresh fruit and vegetables.

Mauritania has iron ore and other minerals and rich fishing grounds. Tunisia has a well-de-

veloped manufacturing industry and an efficient banking sector.

The way to unity was opened when the five countries held a landmark first summit just outside Algiers last June, after a decade of rivalry between Algeria and Morocco and between Libya and Tunisia.

They agreed to work for greater economic and political cooperation and set up committees to draw up firm proposals covering education, customs, security and other matters.

Announcing the second summit from Feb. 15-17, the Moroccan Foreign Ministry said it arose from the determination of all countries to work for greater unity and followed the positive results of the lower-level committees.

Ministers from all five countries met in Tunis in January and agreed in principle to set up the union. But diplomats said they remained far apart on what form it should take.

Algeria and Morocco were reportedly lukewarm over a Tunisian proposal for a permanent secretariat on the lines of the European Commission in Brussels.

The two most populous states

argue that after years of building trade links across the Mediterranean, it is necessary first to create the basics for more ambitious unity schemes with transcontinental economic projects.

Analysts stress the difficulties attached to bringing inefficient state-run socialist economies, such as those in Libya and Algeria, into closer harmony with their capitalist neighbours Morocco and Tunisia.

The countries currently trade little with each other but all have close commercial links with Western Europe.

The summit will take place only a week after Algerian President Chadli Benjedid ends a state visit to Morocco, the first Algerian leader to cross the border for over 20 years.

The two countries brought the age-old ideal of Maghreb unity back to life when they restored diplomatic ties last May. Relations were broken for 13 years over Algeria's support for Polisario guerrillas fighting Morocco in the Western Sahara.

Political analysts and diplomats say the desert war is now as good as over. They expect Benjedid's visit and the summit to set the seal on a regional accord.

Soviet-Israeli faces spying charges

TEL AVIV (AP) — A magistrate's court Thursday extended detention of a Soviet-born Israeli suspected of spying for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), apparently because of disenchanted with the Zionist state.

Radio reports said the man was arrested after he turned himself in at the Israeli embassy in Athens when the PLO refused to give him a promised \$1.5 million for allegedly supplying information.

A court spokesman reported the decision to extend the suspect's detention by 10 days, but the court banned publication of the suspect's name.

Israeli radio stations, however, gave detailed coverage of the

case, including the man's disillusionment with Israeli society.

"I ask that you take in consideration that all my life I only wanted to come to Israel, and here I suffered. There were people who embittered my life every day and each hour," radio reports quoted the 35-year-old Jewish immigrant as telling the court.

"I was a better citizen than those who embittered by life, and I did not understand the severity of what I did," the bespectacled suspect was quoted as saying. "I ask to be released to go home."

The case is the second case of alleged spying involving a Soviet emigre in the last two months. Last Dec. 15, Shabai Kalmanovich, 45, was sentenced to nine years in prison on charges of

spying for the Soviet Union and of having contacts with a foreign agent.

The court also banned publication of identifying details on the man, but media reports said he immigrated to Israel in the 1970s and worked at a government institution in northern Israel.

Israel radio said the man was married and had two children, aged five and 10, and quoted police as telling the court that the suspect had financial problems and was disappointed at his treatment in Israel.

Police spokesman Ronnie Yishayahu said the suspect left last month for Greece where he planned to sell information to the PLO for \$1.5 million.

Bush considering arms sales to S. Arabia

WASHINGTON (AP) — President George Bush has informed Congress he may authorize the sale of 315 front-line Abrams tanks to Saudi Arabia and 200 to Kuwait while providing a third Arab country, the United Arab Emirates, with 40 F-18 fighter jets, informed sources said Thursday.

Egypt, meanwhile, would get 150 Hawk missiles and Israel 200 shoulder-fired Stingers, said the sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The potential Arab purchases could touch off another row with Israel's supporters in Congress, who were exceptionally successful during the Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan administrations in blocking U.S. arms sales to Arab states.

But the skillful management of James A. Baker, then the White House chief of staff and now secretary of state, and other Reagan administration operatives overcame stubborn resistance to the sale of AWACS radar planes to Saudi Arabia.

Recently, U.S. and Egyptian officials completed arrangements for co-production in Egypt with the aim of providing the Egyptian army with Abrams tanks.

The weapons list sent to Congress last Thursday is classified. Congressman Lee Hamilton, chairman of the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Subcommittee that deals with the Middle East, is understood to have cautioned other Congress members and staff aides not to leak any of the items.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

U.S. court approves extradition

NEW YORK (AP) — A federal judge has ruled that a naturalized U.S. citizen accused of taking part in an attack on a bus in the Israeli-occupied West Bank in 1986 could be extradited to Israel. U.S. District Judge Edward Korman Thursday stayed his order for 30 days to allow the lawyers of Mahmoud Al Abed Ahmad to file a petition for a writ of habeas corpus. Korman's ruling was the result of a second extradition proceeding initiated by the U.S. government against Ahmad, who is wanted in Israel for allegedly participating in the attack on the bus on April 12, 1986, in which the driver was killed and three passengers were seriously wounded. A federal magistrate, John Caden, had concluded last June 16 that Ahmad could not be extradited because his acts were a "political offence" and thus fell outside the purview of the extradition treaty between the United States and Israel.

Khomeini pardons broadcasters

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran's Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini pardoned four radio executives a day after they were sentenced at his orders for broadcasting a programme which allegedly insulted Islam, the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported Thursday. IRNA quoted the daily newspaper Jomhuri Islami as saying Khomeini agreed to pardon the broadcasters Wednesday after receiving an appeal on their behalf from Chief Justice Abdul Karim Musavi Ardebili. The broadcasters were arrested at the weekend and sentenced Tuesday for airing a phone-in programme in which a caller said the leading character of a Japanese soap opera, "Oshio," was a better role model for Islamic women than the daughter of the Prophet Mohammed.

Naccache demands 'promised release'

PARIS (R) — A Lebanese gunman jailed for trying to kill the Shah of Iran's last prime minister warned Thursday of bloodshed if France did not keep an alleged promise to free him as part of a hostage deal. Anis Naccache, serving a life sentence for trying to kill Shapur Bakhtiar, said in an appeal to the French and Iranian governments that President Francois Mitterrand had publicly promised he would be set free if French nationals held in Beirut were released. There are no French nationals still held by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon. A copy of Naccache's appeal, sent to Mitterrand Jan. 8, was given to the Paris daily Liberation by his lawyer a few days before French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas is due to visit Tehran to seal a diplomatic rapprochement.

Iranians kill 70 drug smugglers

NICOSIA (R) — Iranian narcotic agents backed by army helicopters wiped out a heavily-armed drugs convoy, killing all 70 traffickers, in a three-day desert battle, Tehran Radio said Thursday. It said the convoy, defended by light and medium calibre weapons, anti-aircraft guns and mortars, was tracked down and destroyed in the southeastern Lut desert. An officer quoted by the radio said army helicopters set fire to five vehicles in the convoy, one of which contained three tonnes of drugs.

Bahrain endorses Islamic court plan

BAHRAIN (AP) — Bahrain Thursday endorsed a plan to set up an international Islamic court of justice patterned on the World Court at the Hague, the Gulf News Agency reported. A decree issued by the emir, Sheikh Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa, approved a decision taken at the last pan-Islamic summit to found the court "out of desire to have a juridical body that settles disputes in line with Islamic Shari'a," the agency said. Shari'a (legislation) forms the basis for court systems in most of the Islamic countries grouped in the 46-state Organisation of Islamic Conference.

Iran's future as cloudy as its past

By Eric Hall
Reuters

DUBAI — "I come from Iran, the birthplace of the most acclaimed and...least known revolution of the contemporary period."

So said Iranian President Ali Khamenei to the United Nations General Assembly in New York, in 1987.

Now, 10 years after exiled leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini returned in triumph to Tehran Feb. 1, 1979, the future of the revolution is as cloudy as its past.

Analysts of the revolution from around the world agree that the ceasefire last Aug. 20 in the war with Iraq will force Iran's leaders to decide on their future, a decision held in abeyance during the eight years of hostilities.

Most are convinced this will be difficult. Iran's leaders are divided amongst themselves over their revolution's future and Khomeini as supreme leader has so far declined to favour any group with his obvious approval.

Impassioned government calls to defend the revolution and the fatherland which concentrated the minds of the mass of the Iranian people on winning the war, have eased.

"The knife of political extremism was kept sharp by the war and the honing blade was the blood of the Iranian people," said U.S. professor James Bill from William and Mary College at a conference in London to mark the revolution's anniversary.

No one is sure how the Iranians will react now that concerns about food, clothes and housing are uppermost in their minds.

"Now (the leaders) have to be active not reactive to affairs in order to tackle reconstruction, but they cannot because they are divided," said Bager Mo'in, a biographer of Khomeini.

"The challenges debated today have been there all along but because of the war have been delayed," Mahmoud Sariolghalam, a professor at Tehran's Shahid Beheshti University, said.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Darius Homayun, a cabinet minister under the late Shah of Iran, wrote in a recent article: "Although opposed to the regime, many Iranians stood by it because of the war."

Khomeini rode a wave of popular opposition to the Shah and channelled it toward his vision of a blueprint for the whole Islamic World.

As supreme leader his word has been law. But in peace he has softened his position and allowed a political debate, the end of which is not yet in sight, the analysts said.

Areas of debate

Professor of history Shaul Bakhash, a leading author about the revolution, defines two main areas of debate — how to reconstruct the economy and how much should the government try to impose Islamic

ideals on society.

Analysts recognise two major political groups which are struggling for position on these issues.

First is Prime Minister Mir-Hossein Mousavi and parts of his cabinet who favour more state control in all sectors.

Second is Speaker of the Majlis (parliament) Hojatolislam Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, a pragmatist who would use private and foreign capital and expertise when necessary.

To their political left and right are a host of other groups all trying to have Khomeini pronounce their doctrine correct.

There are no less than four powerful special councils which can hold up Majlis legislation. Add to these Khomeini's designated spiritual successor Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazeri.

The number of separate lobbies has prompted some Iranian critics to call for a return to the constitution.

Khomeini — the irreplaceable

Western diplomats in the Gulf are agreed that no durable decision can be made without Khomeini's authorisation.

And when the 86-year-old Khomeini disappears from the scene, "the idea that the supreme leader is the final resort will be an untenable claim. No one can exercise his immense authority," said Bakhash.

Early last year Khomeini said the true Islamic government can do anything if it justifies the greater good of

Islam. But asked after the war how a good Iranian should act in the current factional debate, Khomeini replied only that the debate could continue because it was between those whose loyalty to the state was beyond doubt.

This has helped strengthen pragmatist Rafsanjani's hand by undermining the view that traditional Islam holds all the answers for the modern world, said Khalid Ibn Sayeed, a professor at Queen's College, Canada.

Last October Rafsanjani said the ideal of a united Islam was far distant. "The Muslims need high-mindedness, and this high-mindedness does not exist," he said.

However, no analyst quoted seriously believes that the immediate future of Iran would be other than an Islamic one.

One Iranian military expert speculated that the army or the large, well-armed Revolutionary guards could intervene in the event of serious divisions between the clerics when Khomeini died, but only in support of one Islamic group or another.

Some analysts believe the next act of the revolution may be to redefine the role of the clergy, allowing them more room to fit Islam to practical matters and guide Iran through present difficulties.

But if internal division continues too long, from out of the ensuing chaos could emerge "an assertion of naked state power, albeit in religious dress, and in the name of the people," added Bakhash.

DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

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PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children programme
17:10 Educational programme
17:20 News summary
18:00 Message from Iraq
18:15 A play by Shakespeare
19:10 Local programme
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:30 Programme review
21:45 Local programme
22:30 News in Arabic
23:10 Play continued

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Contour: A la Redecouverte du Monde

19:00 News in French
19:15 La Vie En France
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Growing Pains
21:00 Alfred Hitchcock
21:30 Saturday Variety Show
22:30 News in English
22:30 Feature film: "Suicide Club"

PRAYER TIMES

05:05 Fajr
06:24 (Sunrise) Duha
11:49 Dhuhr

CHURCHES

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.
Teresian Church Tel. 622360.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 623383, Tel. 628543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 812955.
Rainbow Congregation Tel. 822605.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 821264.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
A slight rise in temperature is expected and it will be sunny and dry. Winds will be southeasterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Youssef Sammour 615648
Dr. Mohammad Abu Mahfouz 793344
Dr. Youssef Samir 821311
Dr. Abdul Aziz Abu Khalaf 663222
Fina pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asena pharmacy 637025
Neiroukh pharmacy 625672
Al Salem pharmacy 630730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

IRBID:

Min./max. temp.
Amman 3 / 9
Aqaba 7 / 17
Desert - 5 / 8
Jordan Valley 3 / 17

YERMOUK:

Yesterday's high temperature: Amman 7.5, Aqaba 16. Humidity readings: Amman 18 per cent, Aqaba 24 per cent.

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 630341
Rescue 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 62209093
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 634140
Public Security Department 66539091
Police 656000 / 685111
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 787111
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 12
Overseas Calls 17
Central Amman Telephone

REPAIRS

Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 741111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 06-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 06-52000

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/332
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 64281/6
Al-Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 64244/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Mallat, J. Amman 641646
Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Musharraf Hospital 66727/57
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Iraqi, Al-Musharraf 777101/3
Al-Basir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26
Army, Marfa 891611/5
Queen Alia Hospital 62240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 741111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 06-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 06-52000

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in \$/kg per kg.
Apple 250 / 300
Banana 350 / 300
Banana (Mukammur) 300 / 250
Beans 650 / 600
Broad beans 760 / 700
Cabbage 160 / 100
Carrots 240 / 200
Cauliflower 220 / 160
Cucumbers 470 / 400
Dates 600 / 500
Eggplant 200 / 150
Garlic 280 / 200
Cauliflower 220 / 160
Lemon 250 / 200
Lettuce (per one) 120 / 100
Marrow (large) 350 / 300
Marrow (small) 500 / 450

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)332 00-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

04:30 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
05:35 Baghdad (RJ)
06:25 New Delhi (RJ)
09:10 Agaba (RJ)
09:30 Damascus (RJ)
09:30 Cairo (RJ)
09:50 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
09:55 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (RJ)
10:30 Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)
15:30 New York, Montreal (P)

DEPARTURES



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Thursday receives Sudanese Defence Minister Abdul Majed Khalil and Sudanese Army Chief of Staff Mahdi Nimer at the Royal Court. (left) Armed Forces



Chief of Staff Fathi Abu Taleb also receives the Sudanese guests at the Armed Forces headquarters in Amman Thursday (Petra photos)

Crown Prince voices support for peace in Sudan

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan has voiced Jordan's support for Sudan's efforts to re-establish peace and security in the country, and underlined the importance for the Arab African nation to safeguard its sovereignty and bolster national unity.

The Crown Prince was speaking at a meeting held at the Royal Court Thursday with visiting Sudanese Defence Minister

Abdul Majed Khalil who was accompanied by his army Chief of Staff Mahdi Nimer.

Prince Hassan said it is important for all parties in Sudan to overcome the present difficult circumstances and maintain the nation's internal unity and preserve the country's sovereignty and Arab identity.

The Sudanese minister conveyed to Prince Hassan his coun-

try's deep gratitude for Jordan's relief assistance to Sudan and paid tribute to the Jordanian missions who are helping the Sudanese people in the fields of agriculture and health.

Khalil spoke about his government's determination to promote national unity and raise the capabilities of the Sudanese Armed Forces to preserve security and stability.

The meeting was attended by Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Fathi Abu Taleb.

The Sudanese visitors were later met separately with Abu Taleb and reviewed Jordanian-Sudanese cooperation, the general situation in Sudan and matters of common interest.

The meeting, at the army headquarters in Amman was attended by a number of Abu Taleb's assistants.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

KING CONGRATULATES SRI LANKA: His Majesty King Hussein Thursday sent a congratulatory cable to President Ranasinghe Premadasa on Sri Lanka's Independence Day anniversary. In his cable, the King wished the president good health and happiness, and the Sri Lankan people further progress and prosperity. (Petra)

AGRICULTURAL CONFERENCE: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan will open the first agricultural conference at the Professional Association Complex in Amman Sunday. Forty Jordanian agricultural companies, the Ministry of Agriculture, and the University of Jordan will participate in this three-day exhibition which will display local agricultural products and equipment used in agriculture. (Petra)

CLEANING CAMPAIGN: Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid Friday led a voluntary campaign to clean the 100-km desert highway road which extends from Al Muwaqqar to Al Azraq. The campaign was designed to remove garbage and tyres from the two sides of the road. (Petra)

ISLAMIC CHAMBER OF INDUSTRY MEETING: Jordan will take part in the four-day meetings of the Islamic Chamber of Industry and Trade's executive board and general assembly meetings, due to convene in Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates Monday. (Petra)

INCOME TAX REFUNDS: The Income Tax Department is currently preparing lists of the second batch of income tax payers, who are eligible to be refunded parts of the amounts they paid to the department during last year and the years before. (Petra)

ARBOR DAY IN MAFAQ: In observance of Arbor Day, 4,000 trees were planted Thursday in Mafaq. Trees were also planted in a 60-dunum area in Al Aridha. (Petra)

PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE VISIT IRAQ: Iraqi Revolutionary Command Council and First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan met with the delegation of the Jordanian People's Committee in support of the Iraqi People's Struggle which was led by Amin Shuqair. During the meeting, Ramadan expressed admiration for the committee's positions while Shuqair noted that the visit was an expression of the Jordanian people's pride in the Iraqi victory. (Petra)

DRUG PEDDLER JAILED: The military court has sentenced Khaled Mahmoud Ali Yousef to three years imprisonment and payment of JD 600 fine for the possession of heroin. The military governor endorsed the sentence. (Petra)

Contracts signed for building agricultural research centre

AMMAN (USIA) Acting Minister of Agriculture Marwan Hmoud and representatives of four local construction firms signed agreements for the construction of the National Centre for Agricultural Research and Technology Transfer (NCARTT) and satellite facilities.

Lewis P. Reade, director of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in Jordan, Dr. Randall Cummings and Fuad Qushair of USAID's agriculture office, and Abdullah Ahmad, USAID engineer, attended the signing.

The cost of the NCARTT facilities is \$9 million, of which USAID is contributing \$7 million and the government of Jordan is contributing \$2 million.

Four local Jordanian firms were awarded the contracts for the national centre at Baqa'a, and three regional centres at Mushagar, Rabba, and Sboak. A fourth regional centre at Ramtha

will be contracted in the near future.

The national centre and its regional service centres will play key roles in the Ministry of Agriculture's plans to assist farmers.

The research and extension activities these centres carry out will help to increase agricultural production and farmers' income. The centres will promote crop diversification, range improvement, better marketing, and the development of private sector agribusiness to manufacture equipment specifically designed for highland farming.

The multi-storied NCARTT at Baqa'a will house administrative and planning staff and central research laboratories. The regional centres have been located and designed to assist productive interaction between farmers, researchers, and extension workers. The facilities will include offices, libraries, and research laboratories.



Safeway grocery contest ends

AMMAN — The Safeway International's free grocery contest has ended, and the winner was ticket number 67777, according to an announcement Thursday. The winner will be allowed to purchase JD 100 worth of commodities every month for a whole year free of charge at Safeway International. There were other prizes of JD 5, JD 10 and JD 25 for those tickets which came second, third and fourth. Children from the "SOS Children's Village" picked up the tickets to decide the winners. (J.T.)



Minister of Planning Taher Kanaan Thursday receives a cheque from the Canadian Ambassador to Jordan Michael Bell (Petra photo)

Canada gives JD 19,800 to combat desert locusts

AMMAN (J.T.) — Canadian Ambassador to Jordan Michael Bell Thursday presented Minister of Planning Taher Kanaan a cheque for JD 19,800 as a contribution from the Canadian government to Jordan's efforts to combat the danger of desert locusts.

Kanaan thanked the ambassador for the contribution and discussed Canadian-Jordanian cooperation in a number of fields.

The Jordanian government earlier issued an appeal to friendly nations and world organisations to provide assistance and

extend help to Jordan in its drive to eliminate pests that entered Jordanian territory in the past two months from Saudi Arabia.

Waves of desert locusts were successfully fought off by Ministry of Agriculture teams, assisted by the armed forces and the Royal Jordanian Air Force using pesticides, but the ministry has

warned that more waves of locusts were expected in the early spring, and that the country would need more equipment and pesticides to carry out the anti-locust campaign.

King Abdullah Mosque to be formally inaugurated in April

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs announced Friday that the King Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein Mosque situated in Abdali will be formally inaugurated early in April.

The announcement was made during a visit to the shrine by the Awqaf council members led by Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat.

Work on the project began in 1982 and the first stage of the project was completed early in 1986 at the total cost of JD 3 million, according to the statement.

The Mosque complex has a minaret which rises 60 metres, facilities for teaching the Koran, a conference hall, a library, and other facilities. The complex is adjoined by a car park.

JD 24m. contracts signed for two road projects

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Public Works and Housing has awarded contracts worth more than JD 24 million to a group of local contracting companies to build roads north of Jerash and those linking Azraq with the Iraqi border.

Minister of Public Works and Housing Shaqir Zawaideh, who signed the contracts, said that the Thagrat Asfour-Jerash project, a stretch of four-lane 18-kilometre-long road, will cost JD 12.125 million and will be implemented in 1,000 days.

The road links Thagrat Asfour with the Jerash Bridge, and the project entails digging tunnels and crossroads, according to the minister.

He said that the Azraq-Iraqi

border project entails building a 240-kilometre two-lane road and is to be carried out in stages worked out through four separate tenders.

The minister said the first part of the project entails building 110 kilometres of the road at the cost of JD 12.051 million and will take two years to complete.

In the coming month, the minister noted, another agreement will be signed for implementing the remaining section of the road.

These projects had been financed by a loan from Japan, the minister noted.

The contracts were signed by Zawaideh and the general managers of the local contracting companies.

REMOTE SENSING: The Royal Geographic Centre Director Uqlah Duhimat Thursday discussed with Canadian Ambassador to Jordan Michael Bell cooperation in the field of remote sensing. The centre is currently holding talks with the Canadian International Development Agency for supplying the centre with remote sensing equipment to be used for the analysis of aerial pictures. (Petra)

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

CONCERT

★ A festival of rock music by the Sun Rhythme Section at the Yarmouk University.

LECTURE

★ A lecture on the crisis of modern Arabic poetry by Dr. Walid Seif at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation.

UNRWA chief expresses concern over Israeli disruption of services

By Rania Atalla
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) chief Thursday expressed grave concern over the Israeli occupation authorities' interference with and "disruption" of the agency's activities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, most notably the agency's health assistance programmes.

"Our clinics are interfered with, our ambulances are stopped, our freedom of circulation is not assured... some of our staff are arrested or beaten up and some of the wounded have been taken away from our ambulances... We are very worried about that," UNRWA's Commissioner-General Giorgia Giacomelli told a press conference marking the end of a five day visit to Jordan.

Giacomelli said the stepped up presence of Israeli occupation authorities and their interference in the agency's activities had resulted in increased "friction" in the territories.

"What concerns us most is the (occupation authorities') disruption of our health assistance to Palestinians," he said adding that the agency had formed an emergency medical assistance programme to deal with the high number of casualties in the occupied territories.

He noted that the agency was expected to upgrade its relief and general assistance programmes in view of the deteriorating economic situation ever since the Palestinian uprising began 14 months ago.

The UNRWA commissioner said that since the beginning of the intifada, the agency had received a contribution of \$20 million from Arab countries (Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Libya, Iraq and Abu Dhabi, with Kuwait donating the largest share). Italy matched that amount, while the European community, West Germany, Canada and the Scandinavian countries contributed \$50 million (\$30 million for relief and \$20 for other projects). Giacomelli said he expected Japan and the U.S. to make pledges of \$7 million and \$2 million respectively.

Those contributions, both cash and in kind, would be used to

face what Giacomelli referred to as "the challenge of the intifada." He said the money would be used partly to upgrade the infrastructure in the refugee camps and partly for the distribution of food and medicines.

"What we keep calling an emergency has become a new kind of normality... We will have to rely on more generous contributions as unusual activities become usual," Giacomelli noted.

He said conditions in the camps, particularly in the Gaza Strip, were "so appalling" that while efforts for a peaceful settlement of the Palestine problem continued, the agency had "a duty to provide a more bearable waiting" for the refugees.

In Giacomelli's view, Jordan's decision to sever legal and administrative links with the West Bank brought "a measure of clarity" to the relationship between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), removing all "ambiguities."

The commissioner-general said his visit to the Kingdom was aimed at finding out whether and how the agency's activities would be affected following the intifada and Jordan's decision to sever legal and administrative links with the West Bank.

He pointed out that he had received assurances from Jordanian officials that Jordan's commitment to supporting the Palestinian cause had not changed. During his stay in Jordan, Giacomelli met with His Majesty King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Prime Minister Zaid Rifai.

Giacomelli foresaw "trouble" regarding services in the occupied territories. "We will have to see what kind of vacuum, besides the political and psychological one, will emerge... What will happen to schools, hospitals and services.... There will be increased pressure on us," he said.

UNRWA is in spend, over the three coming years, \$65 million on its activities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, its relief work in Lebanon, as well as the agency's regular activities. "We have not yet met our target (of gathering \$65 million)," Giacomelli said, but added that the attitude of member states and donor countries has been "generous."

In 1987, UNRWA had an estimated budget of \$200.3 million, only four per cent of which came from the U.N. The agency, which started work in 1950, provides education, health and relief services to some 2.1 million registered refugees.

Teachers to get allowance for working away from home town

NORTH SHUNEH (Petra) — Minister of Education Thouqan Hindawi announced Thursday that the government has decided to give a 10 to 20 per cent allowance to teachers working in districts away from their home towns in a bid to raise their standards and encourage them to carry out their duty.

The minister who made a tour of the northern Jordan Valley areas spoke at a meeting here on the need for upgrading the qualification of teachers, and said that the advanced teachers training college in Amman this year accepted 300 participants.

Another teachers training college in Irbid which opened its doors last week, the minister

said, is now giving training to 340 teachers while a third college to be opened at Mu'ta in southern Jordan will accept additional number of teachers.

The Ministry of Education, plans to allow teachers with community college diplomas to acquire university degrees and to open the way for those with a university degree to acquire a teachers training diploma, in a bid to update teaching methods at schools and improve the educational system in implementation of resolutions taken by the first national education conference held in 1987, the minister noted.

During his tour, the minister attended a cross-country race in the Jordan Valley.



Computer exhibition opens

AMMAN — Their Royal Highnesses Prince Faisal Ibn Al Hussein and Princess Alia Al Faisal opened the Macintosh IIX computer exhibition at the Marriott Hotel in Amman. The exhibition, which will last until Feb. 5, displays a new line of computers with greater performance and new power. (J.T.)

"Let's take our friends out for Chinese New Year"

Spring rolls, crispy beef and Schezuan dishes - it's the kind of thing we love to eat and don't offer at home to our guests.

So when my wife called up and reminded me that the Amman Marriott was offering their annual Chinese New Year celebration, I agreed that it was a great way to please the family and friends. We always choose Marriott for this kind of occasion - even when we celebrate the Year of the snake.



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Jordan Times

An Independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

جوردين تايمز يومية عربية سياسية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية

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Bridgeable differences

WHILE the Arab League ministerial committee charged with the mission of reconciling differences in Lebanon has ended the first stage of its mandate with no breakthrough, it would be incorrect to characterise its work thus far as a total failure. It is noteworthy and encouraging to observe that after many days and nights of continuous negotiations in Tunis last week between the Arab League committee and the representatives of two principal parties in the Lebanese conflict, namely, Prime Ministers Salim Al Hoss and General Michael Aoun, considerable movement and agreement were recorded on the issue of the urgent need for a "Lebanese pre-stroke," as a prelude to an overall Lebanese solution. This is by far the most basic dimension in the overall Lebanese crisis which has paralysed the country for over a decade and a half. It is also encouraging to note that the two principal sides in Lebanon concede that internal reforms, whether constitutional or otherwise, are the heart of the matter and supercede all other issues. This is not to belittle the issue of Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon on which there is also a firm agreement that it should end forthwith. Unfortunately, however, Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon is not dependent solely on a Lebanese agreement because Israeli occupation of the southern region of Lebanon is an enforced regime on all the Lebanese by Israel's military might and may not be brought to an end by the Lebanese alone.

The only other point that still separates the two basic antagonists in Lebanon is apparently related to the Syrian role in that country. If this is the case, then the differences are indeed bridgeable. Syria, intervened in Lebanon many years ago in the first place, to prevent chaos and civil strife on its western flank. Syria has, on more than one occasion, expressed the opinion that law and order in that country cannot be attained without affecting real and genuine reforms within Lebanon. It would only be possible to reconcile the artificial differences of the Syrian dimension as soon as the much sought reforms in Lebanon are realised. After all, Syrian involvement in Lebanon came about as a result of an Arab League decision and specifically to carry out a certain mandate. As soon as the Lebanese house is put in order again and the sought after reforms are affected, there will be very little to differ about regarding the Syrian mission in Lebanon. With more goodwill on the part of all the Lebanese factions it is more than possible to crown the Arab League ministerial committee's mandate with total success in the days ahead. In any case this committee must never abandon hope for the sake of the Lebanese people.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i daily Friday warns against Israeli threats on Iraq, which if carried out would trigger a new Arab-Israeli war. The paper said that the Israelis would launch an aggression on Iraq under the pretext that this Arab country possesses chemical weapons which Israel fears. But the true reason behind any military adventure against any Arab state is the deteriorating internal situation in Israel itself, it adds. Furthermore, the Israelis are facing continued isolation from the world community as a result of their atrocities against the Palestinians; and their leaders are in dispute over the coming international conference on the Middle East, the paper noted. But it said that the Arabs should not take the Israeli threats against Iraq lightly and must be ready to confront the new aggression which Israel hopes would eclipse Iraq's victories in the Gulf war and deal a heavy blow to the Arabs who are now rallying their forces and their ranks in a new force to confront external challenges. The Arabs, the paper concluded, should not allow Israel to escape from its dilemma by launching a new aggression on the Arab land.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily comments on Israeli-Egyptian disputes over Tabu enclave in Sinai which according to an international panel of arbitrators should return to Egypt. Mahmoud Al Rimawi says that following months of stalling and avoiding the implementation of the panel's resolution, on the part of Israel and following unfruitful negotiations between Egyptian and Israeli officials over the issue, President Hosni Mubarak found it inevitable but to come out strongly against the Israeli position and accuse the Jewish state of adopting a repulsive attitude and scoffing at international agreements. Mubarak warned the Israelis against further procrastination which Israel is exercising as a means of blackmail against Cairo which is now taking very clear position in alignment with the other Arab states, the writer says. Political blackmail is not the only kind of pressure Israel is trying to put on Egypt but there is the drug pressure represented in attempts to smuggle drugs and the attempt to bring into Egypt Zionist elements to stir trouble in Egypt, the writer adds. He says trouble and disturbances among Egyptian lawyers were instigated by an Israeli agent and that in a number of instances Jews were arrested trying to cause security problems in Cairo. The writer says that it is clear that Israel is trying by all possible means to avoid giving up Tabu and causing trouble for the Egyptian authorities because they are demanding that Arab land be returned according to international law.

Al Dastour daily also tackles Israel's threats of launching an aggression on Iraq as it claims that country possesses chemical and biological weapons. The paper said that the Israelis realise that Iraq today is far stronger than it had been at the time when Israeli jets raided the nuclear plant near Baghdad, and the Iraqi military power is capable of dealing a heavy blow to the Israelis as it did to the Iranians. But we believe that the Israelis are resorting to threats against Iraq in a bid to escape the situation on the domestic front which is indeed in disarray as a result of Israel's continued atrocities against the Palestinians and its policies vis-a-vis the Arab World and the international community at large, the paper added. It said that the Israelis want to divert world attention from the situation in the occupied territories and are finding in the accusation of Iraq possessing chemical means to achieve their evil objectives.

Who wanted to pull the trigger in 1962?

THE WORLD was even closer to the brink of nuclear war during the Cuban missile crisis of October 1962 than has previously been thought. According to fresh details of the crisis that emerged in Moscow at an unprecedented meeting of some of the participants, nuclear warheads were already on hand in Cuba for the Soviet missiles that were targeted on Washington, New York and other major American cities.

While Washington had photographic proof that there were nuclear-capable Soviet missiles in Cuba, the Americans were never sure whether nuclear warheads to arm them were actually on the island. Soviet officials at the weekend meeting, who included the former foreign minister, Andrei Gromyko, and the former ambassador to the United States, Anatoly Dobrynin, disclosed that warheads had actually reached the island in September 1962 and had already been deployed by the time the United States discovered the existence of the secret missile bases the following month.

Sergei Khrushchev, a son of the former Soviet leader, told foreign journalists Saturday that the missiles could have been operational in less than a few hours, if his father had given the word. But he also said that General Dmitry Volkogonov, the head of the Moscow Military History Archive Institute, had told the conference "that even in the tensest moments, there was no command given to put the rockets in a state of military readiness, and the warheads were never put on the rockets."

Volkogonov himself said that it would have taken four to five hours to make the missiles ready for launching, and an additional

15 minutes to fire them. He also said that, at the time, the Soviet Union had only "about 20" intercontinental ballistic missiles capable of reaching the United States from its own territory.

That was "a shockingly low number", according to one surprised American official, and only a fraction of the total estimated at the time by the CIA. It meant that the 42 intermediate-range Soviet missiles either installed or in transit to Cuba in October 1962 would have represented more than two-thirds of Moscow's capacity to deliver nuclear strike on American territory.

The younger Khrushchev, an engineer in the Soviet missile programme at the time of the missile crisis, pointed out that "even in the event of an American invasion or air strike, Soviet officers in Cuba had no orders to use the missiles." The missiles were always under full Soviet control, he said, and Cuban officials said they were not even permitted on to the bases.

"This place was 11,000 kilometres from the USSR, and to help in a conventional way was impossible," he said, adding that his father thought that "only an extraordinary measure, such as placing nuclear weapons in Cuba, could defend the island." He said the idea of sending the missiles was first broached in May 1962, and the decision was made in July.

On October 27, when he learned that an American U-2 reconnaissance plane had been shot down over Cuba, Nikita Khrushchev "was very upset," his son recalled. "He was certain that nuclear war wouldn't start as long as he and the president controlled

the situation. But this meant they might lose control."

The Moscow seminar marks the first time that top American, Soviet, and Cuban officials involved in the 1962 crisis have met to discuss it. The picture that emerges from their discussions is one of a vastly more complex confrontation than the version previously known, and one in which even the U.S. participants now say the Kennedy administration played a much more equivocal role than was realised at the time.

On the U.S. side, the participants included the former defence secretary, Robert McNamara, the former national security adviser, McGeorge Bundy, a

Kennedy speech-writer, Theodore Sorensen, and his press secretary, Pierre Salinger. Several U.S. scholars, specialists on the missile crisis, organised the meeting. Scott Armstrong, the director of the National Security Archives in Washington, brought three trunks of declassified U.S. documents with him.

In addition to Gromyko, Dobrynin, and Sergei Khrushchev, the Soviet side included Sergio Mikoyan, a Laftin America specialist who was in Cuba at the time of the crisis with his father, Anastas Mikoyan, then the first deputy premier.

Cuba, agreeing for the first time to discuss the crisis, dispatched a delegation headed by a senior member of the politburo, Jorge Risquet Valdez.

One of the most surprising disclosures emerged during a lunch break in the formal sessions. During lunch, one Soviet participant, a man described having "definitive" knowledge on

the subject, reportedly said that two days before the crisis peaked, Castro sent a message to Khrushchev, urging that the missiles be fired. According to this account, Castro's cable convinced Khrushchev that the confrontation had gone too far, and he decided to agree to U.S. demands that the missiles be withdrawn.

The existence of such a cable plea from Castro could not be corroborated by Soviet and Cuban participants attending the meeting, but three delegates confirmed that they had indeed heard a knowledgeable Soviet participant give the account during a session break. They said that the report clearly took the American side by surprise. Lunch participants said it was unclear from the account whether Castro asked that the missiles be launched pre-emptively or at the moment of a U.S. invasion.

Other participants quoted Alexander Alekseev, the Soviet ambassador to Cuba at the time, as saying that Castro, who had previously been calm throughout the crisis, became particularly agitated around October 26. Fearing a U.S. airstrike, he reportedly spent that night in a bomb shelter where he and the Soviet envoy drafted a cable to Khrushchev warning of intelligence information that a U.S. attack would come within days or possibly hours.

A senior Cuban official, Jose Arbesu, said in an interview that he was unaware of any appeal by Castro to Khrushchev to fire the missiles. But he too acknowledged that the Cuban leader had sent a message on or about October 26 warning of a probable U.S. air strike or invasion "in the next 24 to 72 hours."

In another surprise, the Cuban delegates disclosed that Cuba had urged the Kremlin three times to make a public announcement of its intention to install nuclear missiles in Cuba. President Kennedy, in his public announcement, stressed that the Soviet weapons had been moved secretly on to the island. Former administration officials have said since that the United States would have been hard-pressed to win world support for blocking deployment of the missiles if it had been undertaken openly.

Delegates here confirm that during the formal sessions both Cuban and Soviet officials emphasised their conviction that, by October 1962, a U.S. invasion of Cuba was imminent. American officials continue to insist that the United States had no such intention, although Robert McNamara conceded that he had told the seminar, "I could understand why the Cuban and Soviet leaders at that time believed the U.S. was intending to invade Cuba."

One of the Cuban participants, Comandante Emilio Aragones, said that Cuban authorities estimated that as many as 800,000 people could have been killed in the event of a U.S. invasion. He said that the 20,000 Soviet troops stationed in Cuba had also been ready to "fight and die" alongside their "Cuban brothers."

The conference appears to have convinced the American participants that Soviet determination to defend Cuba against American assault played a much larger role in Khrushchev's thinking than has been previously acknowledged. Although Khrushchev cited the defence of Cuba as his primary motive for installing

missiles there, U.S. officials and academics have tended to emphasise other motives.

Before the Moscow meeting, American participants in the 1962 crisis generally considered the Cubans to have been almost extraneous to its development. They tended to see the crisis strictly as a Soviet-American showdown over an issue of strategic advantage. The Moscow conference appears to have significantly altered that perception. As Scott Armstrong put it during the closing session of the conference: "Cuba has been put back into the Cuban missile crisis in a very definite way here."

Several Americans said that they had previously underestimated the extent to which the Cubans and the Russians believed that a U.S. invasion of the island was a real possibility. "Much of the trouble arose from a failure of communication," between Washington and Moscow, said McGeorge Bundy. "You failed to understand in the Soviet Union that we were not going to invade the island of Cuba. That was partly our mistake, too, since we failed to understand your fears."

"There is plenty of blame to be shared by all three countries represented here today," concurred Theodore Sorensen.

Jorge Risquet Valdez proposed that sequel to this conference be held in Havana. "We feel this would be just, and make a further contribution to our understanding," he said.

Compiled from reports by Dan Fisher of the Los Angeles Times, Scott Shane of the Baltimore Sun, and Michael Dobbs of the Washington Post and reprinted from the Guardian.

Palestinians in Honduras: success breeds resentment

By David Adams

Reasons for racial tensions

JAMILE, aged 88, rocked back and forward in her arm chair singing sad verses in Arabic about a faraway homeland where she hopes to be buried one day. "It broke my heart to leave," she said, recalling the day 26 years ago when she left her home in the Palestinian village of Beit Jala, a mile from Bethlehem, to start a new life in the Americas. The Palestinian trail from Bethlehem and its surrounding villages to Central and South America — as well as North America — is a well-trodden path and one on which 10 of Jamile's 11 children preceded her. Last month her sister, Rahda, came from Beit Jala, to escape the repression that has claimed the lives of over 350 Palestinians — among them a number of her relatives — in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip since December 1987.

The story of Palestinian emigration to Honduras, why and how they came, and the development of their new communities, is almost totally unchronicled. It is also a parable of the challenges facing any immigrant community seeking assimilation in a foreign land. Following a century of hardships, the Palestinians are today scattered throughout the world. In their own land they are refugees and even the Arab World has failed to truly open its doors to them. By comparison, from San Francisco to Santiago, Palestinian immigration has been an astonishing success story, thousands settling in new lands where they have been integrated quickly and prosperously.

Their story bears the added irony of a people who fled the political and economic misery of the Middle East, and saw in Central America a new land of opportunity and peaceful sanctuary. But in recent years Central America has witnessed its own exodus as thousands have fled war and poverty. It is also ironic that the Palestinian exodus was spurred on by the conviction that the Americas offered the opportunities of a virgin land as yet unexploited. It was at this very time that the earliest Zionists were promoting the idea of Jewish emigration to Palestine, basing their claim not just on the Bible but also on the belief that Palestine offered a land for a people without a land.

Estimates vary over the size of Honduras' Arab population from 25,000,000, out of a total population of four million. Of these the vast majority came from a handful of Christian villages near Bethlehem. Emigration increased during the Great War, when the Ottomans pressed young Christian men into military service and threw them into the front lines. The young men were smuggled out of Palestine in boats bound for France. On arrival in Marseille, so the story goes, they boarded boats headed for "America", not realising that often meant South or Central America.

As new immigrants they adapted quickly to the language and began to take over the merchant class. "Today they have enormous wealth and influenced by Honduran standards," said one diplomat. "In pure commercial-industrial terms, they dominate the country". One has only to walk down Third Avenue in San Pedro Sula, the country's busiest commercial street, to grasp their economic influence. Every other shop front bears the name of a leading Palestinian family such as Larachi, Sikafy, Handal, Fanoos or Kawas. At one end of the street is the largest textile factory in Honduras, owned by the Canabani family, from Bethlehem.

But their economic success has aroused resentment from the indigenous Indian and traditional Latin communities. The word "turco", meaning Turk, is often used as an insult in Honduras, relating to the first Palestinian immigrants who arrived with Turkish passports from the Ottoman empire. As owners of some of the largest businesses in the country they are regarded as harsh and exploitative employers. "We offer employment. They accept it but they resent it," said one Palestinian businessman.

Other reasons for racial tensions include the self-contained nature of the Arab community. Until recently they tended to marry only their own kind, many of the older generation still speak Arabic amongst themselves and speak Spanish with strong Arab accents and clumsy grammar. At home they still eat Arabic food and drink Arabic coffee and tea. "In modern day folklore they are the Jews of Honduras. Ask any Honduran and they will tell you all Arabs have long noses and rip you off," said one diplomat.

The Palestinian community is divided about how to handle its identity. "It's time we stood up and said proudly what we are doing for this country," said Elias Larachi, a hardware store owner in the northern city of San Pedro Sula.

"We had the confidence in the country to build up businesses and invest money. We are immensely grateful for that opportunity. But it's time our contribution was recognised," he added, noting that Palestinian businessmen are major contributors to social programmes and charities in the country.

"We have worked hard to make this a better country. We have our traditions and love for our motherland. But, we are above all Honduran," said Selim Canabani, who left Bethlehem aged two in 1951 and now runs a successful marble business and is the treasurer of the Honduran national football team selection committee.

In the past Palestinians have stayed out of the traditional Honduran power-elites, the armed forces, the political parties and the banks. Today the first signs of change are looming with the governing Liberal party headed by

Carlos Fores Facusse, a bright young politician with Arab blood. Many believe he will be Honduras' next president following elections in 1989. The next Honduran Congress is also likely to have a new influx of Arab politicians. His political opponents have seized on Flores' Palestinian ties in an attempt to discredit his campaign. During the last round of internal party elections one of his leading opponents turned up at party headquarters to cast his vote dressed in Arab costume. In an attempt to limit potential damage to his chances, Flores has dropped the offending Arab half of his name — Facusse — now calling himself Flores F.

But were Flores to win the presidency next year some people fear an anti-Arab backlash. Said one Palestinian businessman, "this is not the time for a politician who everyone knows has Arab origins to become president of this country. The whole Arab community will be blamed for any failures in such a government."

In the military only a small number of officers of Palestinian origin have emerged. Two Arab officers have risen to the rank of colonel, and a handful of others currently hold lesser ranks. The banking community has long been the preserve of a small but active Jewish community who came to Honduras in the 1920s from Russia and Romania. "We have traditionally always had very good relations with the Palestinians," said one Jewish politician. "We tend not to compete as we are bankers and they are merchants. In fact their presence has made it easier for other foreign immigrant communities such as ours to operate here."

The Palestinian identity

Divisions also exist in the Palestinian community over a sense of identity with the Palestinian political cause. The year-old uprising in the West Bank and Gaza has heightened awareness among some Hondurans of their Palestinian roots.

The Palestinian influence in the Honduran media is strong with a number of the leading independent newspapers, radio stations and TV channels owned by Arab businessmen. Newspapers cover news from the occupied territories extensively and sometimes carry advertisements supporting the PLO and the Palestinian uprising. "We are all Honduran first but the Palestinian cause is a just cause and something I can identify with. I don't agree with Arafat but I admire what he's trying to do," said one young Honduran woman whose father emigrated from Palestine.

"It's the cause of my father and my grandfather and it's the cause of my children and my grandchildren," said Jose, who carries a Palestinian flag on his key-ring as a keepsake. His brother-in-law is a teacher in Dahiassia refugee camp, on the outskirts of Bethlehem, which has been the scene of many clashes between Palestinians and Israeli soldiers.

Jamile's grand-daughter, Marilyn, was born in Honduras and is one of few of the younger generation who speaks Arabic. "We are of Arab origin but feel 100 per cent Honduran," she said. Before, Jamile broke in, "You don't lose your blood. We are Arabs for always." — Middle East International, London.

Pinochet privatisation drive comes under attack

By Anthony Boodle
Reuter

SANTIAGO — Opposition leaders are fiercely criticising a drive by General Augusto Pinochet to sell most of Chile's remaining state firms to private investors in his last year in power.

They say he aims to tie the hands of future civilian governments.

Chile has become Latin America's showcase free-market economy since Pinochet overthrew the Marxist government of Salvador Allende and seized power in a 1973 military coup.

Officials say the sell-offs will consolidate a competitive economy free of state intervention and, by spreading ownership among many shareholders, prevent any future attempt at nationalisation by a leftist government.

But opposition leaders say a retreating Pinochet is applying a "scorched-earth" strategy after his electoral defeat on October 5 to undermine the economic power of a civilian government taking office in March 1990.

"The government is rapidly stripping the state of its assets so that no important company falls into the next government's hands," said economist Gonzalo Martner, who is drafting the opposition economic programme for the December elections.

Chile has sold 31 enterprises since the privatisation plan was launched in 1985. The state industrial development agency Corfo has auctioned off electric utilities, Chile's only steel industry and 50.2 per cent of the national telephone company, which was acquired by Bond Corp of Australia.

Corfo now plans to sell 30 more firms including the national airline Lan Chile, part of the oil industry, Santiago's subway system, the water works, two hydro-

electric dams, the railways, state shipping line and the ports before Pinochet steps down.

And the military junta is also studying a law to grant the central bank autonomy from the executive branch, which opposition leaders say will make it difficult for the next president to manage the economy.

The coalition of 17 parties that defeated his bid for another eight years in power says Pinochet no longer has a legitimate mandate to continue selling state companies.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher "won an election and then began privatising. Pinochet is selling off state companies left, right and centre after losing an election," said one opposition spokesman.

Opponents allege that Pinochet's government, rushing to sell companies, auctioned shares at less than half their real value.

"It is unacceptable that the government should try to complete the privatisations in such little time by auctioning off national assets at any price after its policies have clearly been rejected by a majority of Chileans," said Patricio Aylwin of the centrist Christian Democratic Party.

Opposition leaders want Pinochet to stop the sell-offs until the actions can be reviewed by congress, which has been closed since the 1973 coup and will reopen in March 1990.

The leaders have pledged to respect private property, saying they do not oppose privatisations in principle, but have warned investors that sales of state companies made after the October elections could be annulled.

Some suspect that Pinochet may try to privatise state-run copper company Codelco, which generates almost half the country's foreign currency.

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Personnel Office
U.S. Agency for International Development
P.O. Box 354, Amman, Jordan

'German art of the late 1980s'

(INP). — The organisers and adjudicators of the "Deutsche Kunst der späten 80er Jahre" exhibition in Düsseldorf very wisely did not claim to be offering an overview of the entire art scene in the Federal Republic of Germany. They took the wind out of the sails of any criticism by stating right from the start that their selection was based on entirely subjective criteria. All the same, an undertaking with the somewhat anaemic title of "BiNationale" — as this double exhibition of works by young German and young American artists was styled — deserves to be representative in character. This show which took place initially in Düsseldorf and is now starting in Boston — followed by a number of other American cities — will provide persons on the other side of the ocean with a glimpse into the artistic situation in the land where the works come from as the touring exhibition of American works from Boston to Düsseldorf did. The result of a comparison of the two exhibitions was a foregone conclusion right from the start: Art in the Western World is developing roughly on parallel lines.

The avant-garde, an international affair from the outset, has, with increasing age, become a more and more universal phenomenon. The pictures resemble each other. And yet one of the most popular cultural-critical parlor games at an exhibition along the lines of the German-American "BiNationale" is to ask about the national characteristics of art.

Superfluous

The question is superfluous in the case of works by Imi Knoebel, Harald Klingenhöller and Ludger Gerdes. Malevich's black square, arranged by Gerdes symmetrically with several other quadrate elements and a chop-

per, permits a critical-ironic interpretation of the way the heritage of the founding fathers of abstract art are being treated. Imi Knoebel, who makes no bones about his admiration for Malevich, fits nicely into the traditional line of the classical modern of supranational pattern with his sweeping minimalist three-part work. Harald Klingenhöller's serial arrangements, in which cubic forms of corrugated board constitute the focal point, can literally be read as paraphrases of Minimal Art. The conceptual art of Georg Herold or Rosemarie Trockel — she is the only woman among the 26 artists as Katharina Fritsch had to cry off at the last moment — are in no way tied to a purely national content.

Gerhard Merz and Jörg Immendorf represent the span between two highly different concepts of form. At the Düsseldorf exhibition, Gerhard showed a gigantic oil painting bearing the title "Ed io anche son architetto." With a T-square against a red background, the title of the work on the upper edge of the picture, and year and artist's name on the lower edge, Merz is declaring his intention to form, to shape, to establish himself as a creator-artist. The picture has manifesto quality, formulates demands which now seem highly antiquated. It evokes an empty, formal severity, suggestive of classical — and fascist — architecture. Merz's works extol pure form, are intent on generating a feeling of elevation, not least through their monumental, space-devouring dimensions. Immendorf, one of the "father generation" of the neo-Expressionist move towards new panel painting at the beginning of the 1980s, has largely turned his back on political subjects which were his distinguishing feature. He now offers a private metaphorical world, painted with a swift brush on

canvas; by way of an exception, the exhibition is displaying pictures which he completed several years ago.

Wild canvas artists

Since the dawn of the 1980s, other countries, particularly Great Britain and the United States, have tried, time and time again, to tie German art down to an expressionist style and to brooding Teutonic romanticism. The success of the "wild" canvas artists, who emerged so vehemently at the beginning of the decade, seems to no longer be an exception from the "Wiederentdeckungseffekt" (recognition effect); the formal and subject concepts of expressionism seemed to have been transposed to the present. Here, foreign critics in particular believed they had found the expression of a typically German frame of mind, gloomy and torn, inclined to sudden outbursts. The exhibition in Düsseldorf demonstrates even more clearly, towards the close of the decade, something it was even possible to make out during the heyday of the "Neue Wilde" (new wild ones): the extent to which the imitated style of "classical" expressionism grew from what was, in the final analysis, a light-hearted, carefree, playful, and partially cynical impulse.

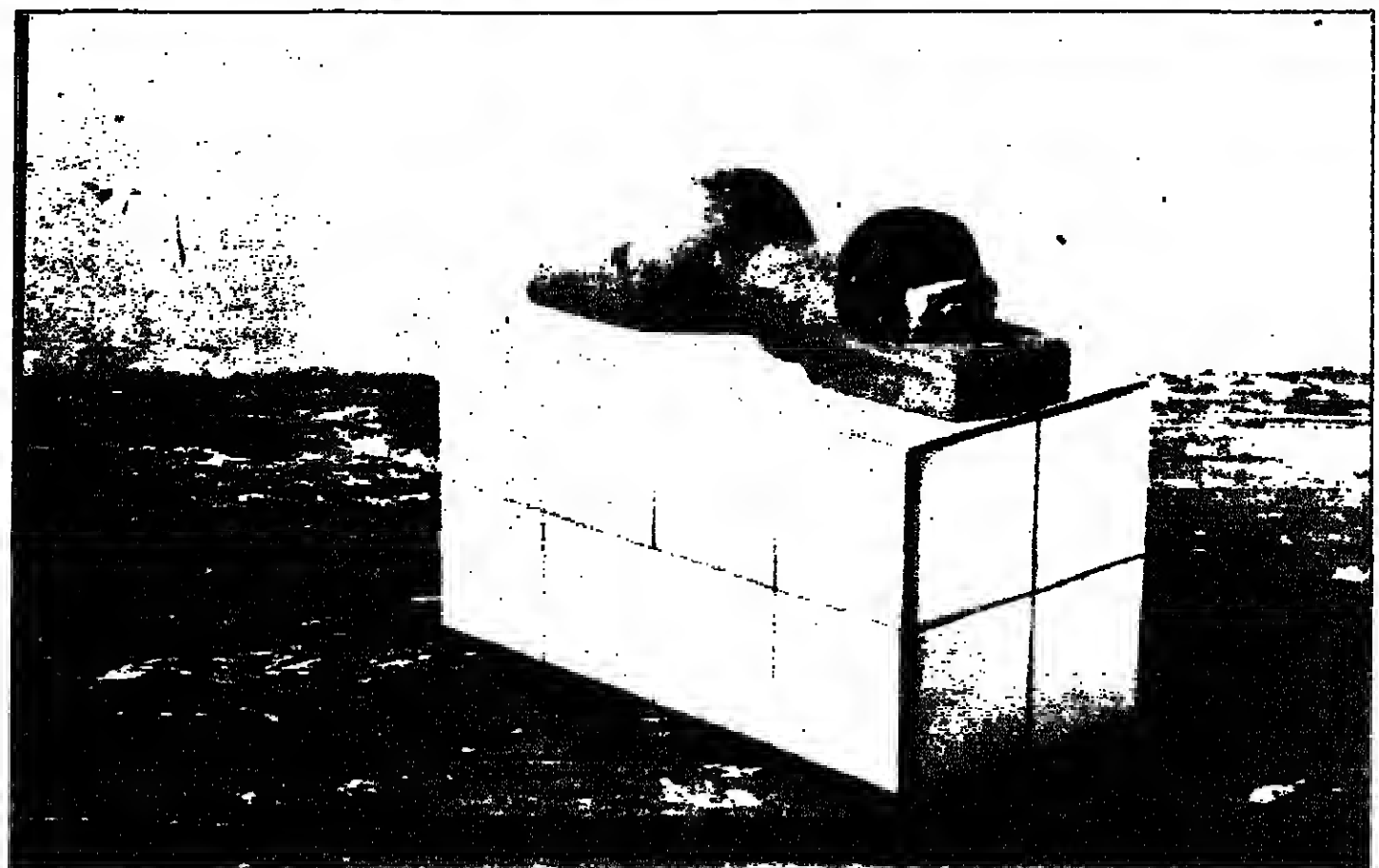
Werner Büttner's series "Damen aus dem KPX-Bad" (Ladies from the KPX Bath), which have been roughly but nevertheless precisely hewn out of wood, stretching their limbs on tiled pedestals, have, of course, something to do with the fascination aroused by African sculpture in European artists at the beginning of this century. But it is also natural for Büttner to remain ironically aloof from art which once struggled with the problems of an authentic and unsophisticated form of artistic expression, unencumbered by civilisation and

Western tradition.

Overall — and this was made clear by the Düsseldorf exhibition — the expressive disposition has given way to a stately attitude. Evidence of this is offered just as much as Stephan Balkenhol's wooden figures mounted on pedestals, as it is by Thomas Ruff's photographic work. In fact, photography was conspicuously represented at the Düsseldorf exhibition; Ruff's oversized, enlarged passport photos with the shadowless faces of young persons wear a serious expression, are, without doubt, some of the most expressive pictures in the whole show. Isolation and loneliness are just as much reflected as the exchangeability of the individuals and the technique which makes them all alike.

Aims

The time when the avant-garde's aim could be made unbroken, now seems an irrevocable thing of the past. True, no-one wants to break with the form-language and behavioural norms of the artistic avant-garde, but the specific cognitive manner, laid claim to by the avant-garde, is no longer linked with it. The institutionalised shock is to have no extra-artistic effect whatsoever. The reflection screw has been given one more turn and now seems to have an eternal thread; the avant-garde play material is constantly re-assembled in a different way by newly-born artists. Nothing basically new takes place — fingers now gingerly present what was once charged with explosive force. We are witnessing once more a sort of self-assertion struggle by art for a separation of the artistic from the everyday, the artistic from the social, the artistic from the political. Art is presenting itself as a system of order with its own rules. In addition to the attitude of denying all claims once made



From Werner Büttner's series "Damen aus dem KPX-Bad" (1988), a contribution to the German-American "BiNationale". (Photo: INP/Walter Klein)

by art, and those laid at its door, the notion has been prevalent for some time now, that the artist is the guardian of humanity's greatest secrets. And yet art

seems to withdraw so often into a sulk, or into a studio in an ivory tower where — after all the turbulent years when everything was romping around the market

place — neighbouring arts, such as drama and literature also seek seclusion. The often highly cryptic artists' statements in the catalogue bear this out: most contem-

porary artists are not intent on public confrontation and communication — beyond the limits of purely cultural activity. — Michael Hierholzer.

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Tapping Tunisia's geothermal waters

By Mark Newham

DEEP down beneath Tunisia's mostly parched landscape are huge pools of geothermal waters, enough, theoretically, to make the desert bloom. But geothermal irrigation poses several problems. The water that is pumped from underground aquifers is too salty and much too hot to be applied directly to plants. Moreover, digging deep wells can be costly, and cooling the water once it has reached the surface can be expensive, too.

Now, an unusual experiment in Tunisia indicates that there may be a new and far more efficient use for the nation's geothermal riches. With a \$319,000 grant from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the North African nation has begun producing vegetables for export that are grown entirely under plastic. Whenever the temperature falls, the vegetables are warmed in a unique way — by geothermal heat brought to the surface through wells that have already tapped aquifers for irrigation of nearby fields.

By combining drip irrigation with geothermal heating, the project saves up to 50 per cent of water normally used in flood irrigation, and employs an otherwise wasted by-product, which is the water's heat. Drip irrigation brings water to plants in pipes or plastic tubing with tiny holes in them that permit only the water that is needed for plant growth to seep through. Flood irrigation involves pumping water through a grid of open irrigation ditches, which is more wasteful.

In the past, water for drip irrigation drawn from deep wells had to be passed through a cooler

before being applied to the soil, since it was too hot for immediate use. Water above a certain temperature burns roots and sheds large amounts of salts into the soil.

Unlike greenhouse schemes elsewhere in North Africa, which expel excess heat from aquifers into the atmosphere in cooling tanks prior to applying it for irrigation, the hot water in the Tunisian experiment is piped through plastic tubing around the greenhouses under its own pressure from the wells, and is used to heat the greenhouse at night and on chilly winter days. The water, once it has cooled during its initial circulation around the greenhouse, is safe for irrigation.

Although the experiment is only two years old, initial results are so encouraging that the project's director, Herman Verloft, believes Tunisia now has a formidable weapon for use in the battle with its North African neighbours trying to corner the same markets.

Mr. Verloft, a Belgian agricultural advisor attached to Tunisia's Ministry of Agriculture, is concentrating on growing tomatoes, melons, peppers, cucumbers and aubergines. He says that in all cases the added heating has increased productivity substantially. In the case of tomatoes, for example, the water-heated greenhouses now produce up to eight kilograms of fruit per square metre in one growing cycle — twice the amount from plants in non-heated greenhouses. Improvements in productivity are similar for the other crops.

While some skeptics predict a payback in decades, Mr. Verloft is confident that the 6-8 Tunisian dinars (\$7-9) required for heating



Belgian agricultural advisor Herman Verloft inspects nearly ripened tomatoes

one square metre can be recouped in one year at best, and five years at worst, depending on the crop grown and the demand for it in the market place.

This does not include the drilling of a well to tap the hot water, since it is assumed that greenhouse clusters will only be situated near existing wells already supplying irrigation and drinking water. To drill a well specially for a greenhouse project would double or triple the cost.

Since the project began two years ago, experimental green-

houses have been erected at 11 sites, mostly in Tunisia's central belt close to the best hot water resources contained in the chotts — salt seas — of the northern Sahara. By 1991, with funds from UNDP, Belgium and the Tunisian government, Mr. Verloft aims to have 150 hectares of greenhouses, many privately managed by small-scale farmers.

Mark Newham is a London-based freelance journalist who writes about economic issues and sustainable development.

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'Foreign investments boost U.S.'

NEW YORK (Agencies) — Foreign investment in the United States helps the economy, creates jobs and increases U.S. productive capacity, a majority of corporate leaders said in a survey.

But one in five of those responding said the current acceleration in foreign investment threatens U.S. social and cultural foundations.

Despite this risk, a large majority of the executives oppose broad protectionist legislation and do not think such legislation will be enacted.

The nationwide survey, taken last fall and released by the accounting and management consulting firm Touche Ross and Co., elicited responses from 519 executives, 30 per cent of whom are chief executives.

Touche Ross cited government statistics that said foreign investment in the United States has surpassed \$1.5 trillion.

That figure includes \$1.3 trillion in portfolio investments such as government securities, bank deposits and corporate stock, and \$262 billion in direct investment in manufacturing plants, banks and real estate.

Foreign direct investment alone has more than tripled since 1980, the firm said.

The executives were asked to describe the effect of foreign investment on the U.S. economy and were given three options.

The survey said 55 per cent said

it helps the U.S. economy, 31 per cent said it creates little cause for alarm and 14 per cent said it severely threatens the U.S. economy.

Twenty-six per cent of those responding from the aerospace-defense industry and 21 per cent from the retailing business, both higher than average levels, described foreign investment as a severe threat to the economy.

Touche Ross said that suggests those participating in the survey from the aerospace-defense industries are "understandably more concerned about the effect on national security than is the average respondent."

It said the higher-than-average response from retailers indicate they may feel "threatened by the recent barrage of direct foreign acquisitions of U.S. retail operations."

Last year, the Canadian-based Campeau Corp.'s \$6.6 billion buyout of Federated Department Stores Inc. was one of the year's biggest deals.

But despite the bullish view that respondents overall took toward foreign investment's effect on the U.S. economy, the survey said "a significant number express concern about the effect it

was in other areas." It said 21 per cent of those responding said they felt the acceleration of foreign investment threatens U.S. social and cultural foundations, or about one-third more than the percentage who felt it threatens the economy.

Touche Ross called that a "curious dichotomy" but said it was consistently reflected in results in each region of the country.

Business leaders tend to support foreign investment more than the general public does, according to a recent survey by the Japan Society, a U.S.-Japanese organization that surveyed attitudes toward Japanese investment of people in the states of California, Tennessee and Michigan.

Among some other key findings in the Touche Ross survey of corporate leaders' attitudes are:

— Eighty-two per cent of the respondents do not want broad protectionist legislation and 82 per cent do not think such legislation will become law.

— Political stability was cited most frequently as the main reason for the accelerating rate of foreign investment, while favourable exchange rates were cited second.

— Eighty-six per cent of those responding agree that foreign direct investment has created jobs for U.S. citizens and one-third said it had prevented high

rates of unemployment during the past five years.

— More than two-thirds said foreign direct investment has increased the nation's productive capacity during the past five years. More than 80 per cent said foreign ownership has either no effect on or improves relations with the labour force.

— Respondents ranked the auto industry as both the industry most helped and the industry most hurt by foreign investment.

Greenspan sees no recession soon, calls for deep deficit cut

On the official level, Federal Reserve (Fed) Chairman Alan Greenspan said his tough stance against inflation had improved the outlook for the economy but warned of problems ahead unless the federal budget deficit was cut sharply.

Greenspan, testifying to the Joint Economic Committee of Congress, ruled out a recession because of the rise in short-term interest rates over the past 10 months.

"There is nothing embodied in the current balances within the economy, which in any way in my judgment, at least, predisposes us to a recession," he said.

Indeed, by suppressing some of the forces that could destabilise the economy, such as inventory accumulation and inflation, the Fed had given the expansion,



Alan Greenspan

now in its seventh year, a shot in the arm.

The rise in interest rates was "probably more likely to extend out the recovery than to bring it to an early halt."

Greenspan, as he did earlier before another congressional panel, said he had raised interest rates because inflation was already too high and could accelerate further if the economy continued to grow at a rapid rate.

"The risk of greater inflation could be appreciable if real gross national product continued to increase at recent rates over the next several years," the Fed chairman said.

EIB reports record '88 lending

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — The European Investment Bank (EIB) the EC's long-term financing agency, said Friday it lent a record \$11.3 billion in 1988, up 30 per cent in 1987.

In its annual report, the bank said the rise reflected "the buoyant level of investment" in the 12 European Community (EC) nations in advance of Dec. 31, 1992 when the EC plans to become a single economic unit without internal borders hampering trade.

The EIB's 1988 lending totalled 10.2 billion European Currency Units (ECUs), up from 7.8 billion ECUs in 1987, the Luxembourg-based bank said.

EIB President Ernst-Guenther Broeder said at a press conference here he expects EIB lending this year to rise a further 20 per cent.

The bulk of its 1988 loans — 9.5 billion ECUs (\$77.2 million)

— were granted to EC nations. The rest went to the more than five dozen developing nations that have special trade links with the EC.

All 12 EC nations, except Luxembourg, received EIB loans in 1988 for regional development and infrastructure programmes, particularly in transport and telecommunications, and to modernise industries.

Italy was the biggest recipient of EIB loans in 1988. It received 3.37 billion ECUs (\$3.7 billion), or 36 per cent of all lending in the EC.

It was followed, in descending order, by:

France, 1.35 billion ECUs (\$1.5 billion); Britain, 1.18 billion ECUs (\$1.3 billion); Spain, 1.02 billion ECUs (\$1.1 billion); West Germany, 603 million ECUs (\$670 million); Portugal, 560 million ECUs (\$622 million); De-

nmark, 494 million ECUs (\$548 million); The Netherlands, 260 million ECUs (\$289 million); Greece, 187 million ECUs (\$208 million); Ireland, 155 million ECUs (\$172 million) and Belgium, 11.6 million ECUs (\$13 million).

The growth in operations was chiefly attributable to lending from (the EIB's) own resources, the bank's annual report said. This lending was up by 2.1 billion ECUs (\$2.3 billion).

"Expansion was marked in Spain and Portugal and also in France, Denmark and above all in Germany and The Netherlands," the report said.

"There was a modest rise in lending in Italy, while in the other countries activity more or less remained at present levels," it added.

Outside the EC, the EIB said its lending surged 80 per cent to 700 million ECUs (\$777 million) from 1987.

Last year, the EIB lent 302 million ECUs (\$335 million) to former European colonies in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific.

Also, the EIB said, 398 million ECUs (\$442 million) was allocated to countries in the Mediterranean basin, including Yugoslavia, Morocco, Jordan, Egypt and Malta.

Book cautions USSR creditors

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Soviet Union is trying to finance its reforms with loans from the West while postponing tough decisions needed at home to curb its budget deficit, says the author of a new book on the Soviet economy.

Author Judy Shelton has joined a chorus of Western skeptics, including many in the U.S. Congress, who worry that Western banks and governments are extending credits to the Kremlin without reviewing the strategic implications.

Shelton's new book, "The Coming Soviet Crash: Gorbachev's Desperate Pursuit of Credit in Western Financial Markets," includes a detailed analysis of published Soviet budget data.

She concluded that Kremlin accountants have been fudging the country's economic figures for years, steadily reporting budget surpluses when in fact there were growing deficits. The Soviets finally admitted to a budget deficit last October.

The foremost spokesman in Congress on the issue, Senator Bill Bradley, has cautioned that giving the Kremlin easy credits could undercut U.S. interests and harm rather than help the reforms of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Shelton wrote that the Soviets, in an effort to attract capital, are publishing many previously secret economic statistics. But she and others question the data.

The continued cloudiness of Soviet financial figures does not augur well for the West as the Soviets seek to join such Western financial institutions as the International Monetary Fund, World

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Thursday, Feb. 2, 1989					
Central Bank official rates					
	Buy	Sell			
U.S. dollar	493.0	495.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	379.8	381.7
Pound Sterling	862.4	866.7	Dutch guilder	233.8	235.0
Deutschmark	264.0	265.3	Swedish crown	77.8	78.2
Swiss franc	310.2	311.8	Italian lira (for 100)	36.1	36.3
French franc	77.5	77.9	Belgian franc (for 10)	126.0	126.6

Amman Financial Market weekly trading

Following is a summary of trading during last week and the previous week:

	Jan. 28-Feb. 1	Jan. 21-25
Daily average	JD 2,888,228	JD 2,032,186
Total volume	JD 14,441,141	JD 10,160,931
Total shares	10,088,560	7,864,374
No. of contracts	6,972	6,044
Sectoral trading:		
Industrial	JD 10,840,540 (75.1%)	JD 7,473,738 (73.6%)
Financial	JD 2,156,196 (14.9%)	JD 2,086,199 (20.5%)
Service	(7.2%)	(4.9%)
Insurance	(2.8%)	(1.0%)
Share price index	134.4	127.8
No. of companies	65	69
Price movement (rise)	61	51
(decline)	2	8
(stable)	2	10

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	1.7457/67	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.1910/20	Canadian dollar	
	1.8790/8000	Deutschmark	
	2.1213/23	Dutch guilders	
	1.5955/62	Swiss francs	
	39.35/40	Belgian francs	
	6.3925/75	French francs	
	1371/1372	Italian lire	
	129.20/30	Japanese yen	
	6.3670/3720	Swedish crowns	
	6.7800/50	Norwegian crowns	
	7.2960/3010	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	389.40/389.80	U.S. dollars	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Domestic selling virtually wiped out early gains, with some brokers blaming nervousness before this weekend's G-7 meeting. The All Ordinaries index was up 0.8 at 1,511.3.

TOKYO — Prices ended the week on a new closing high after heavy trading on the back of buying of construction stocks. The yen's trend against the dollar also helped the Nikkei index rise 187.48 to 31,685.78.

HONG KONG — The market surged to its third post-crash high of the week as local buying overcame institutional selling. The Hang Seng index gained 46.42 to 3,105.96.

SINGAPORE — Prices closed firm after bargain-hunters caused widespread gains in hectic trading ahead of the lunar new year. The Straits Times industrial index rose 15.09 to 1,143.43.

BOMBAY — Share prices recovered on heavy speculative buying fuelled by rumours some Indian companies may conclude lucrative deals with a visiting French business mission. In textiles, Reliance Industries Ltd. rose 7.5 rupees to 138.5.

FRANKFURT — Takeover rumours scurried round the Frankfurt bourse, pushing selected stocks sharply higher and lifting the whole market. The real-time 30-share DAX index ended up 6.80 points or 0.5 per cent at 1,336.36.

ZURICH — Swiss share prices closed generally steady in fairly calm trading. The all-share Swiss performance index was hardly moved at 959.2 points compared with 957.5 at the previous close.

PARIS — French share prices extended gains by midday, led by strong buying on the Havas communications and advertising group. The 50-share price indicator was up 0.69 per cent.

LONDON — Equities stood close to their day's highs in late trade with an acute shortage of stock exaggerating the gains made on the back of early, fresh demand. At 1540 GMT, the FTSE 100 was up 30.8 points at 2,074.2.

NEW YORK — Wall Street stocks were higher in late morning trade although blue chips were off highs. The Dow was up seven at 2340 after rising to 2344.

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٩ دينار للشخص الواحد
يرجى الحجز مسبقاً
هاتف ٥١٠٠٠ (٨)

AMBASCIATA D'ITALIA - AMMAN SEZIONE CONSOLARE ANNUNCIO AI CONNAZIONALI

In base a quanto disposto con la legge n. 470 del 27.10.1988 (art. 6 punti 1,2,3), i cittadini italiani che risiedono all'estero alla data dell'entrata in vigore della presente legge devono dichiarare la loro residenza (qualora non l'abbiano già fatto) entro un anno dalla predetta data mentre coloro che trasferiscono la loro residenza da un comune italiano all'estero devono farne dichiarazione all'ufficio consolare della circoscrizione di immigrazione entro novanta giorni dall'immigrazione.

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Cinema Tel: 677420

PLAZA

LIKE FATHER LIKE SON

Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Evert, Sabatini toppled in Pan-Pacific

TOKYO (R) — Chris Evert and Gabriela Sabatini, the second and third seeds respectively, were toppled in the quarter-finals of the Pan-Pacific Women's Open Indoor Tennis Tournament Friday. Evert was ousted 6-2, 5-7, 6-4 by fellow-American and seventh seed Lori McNeil while Argentine Sabatini lost 6-2, 6-2 to eighth-seeded American Mary Joe Fernandez. By contrast, top seed Martina Navratilova thrashed sixth-seeded West German Claudia Kohde-Kilsch 6-2, 6-2.

Fenech to defend title against Villasana

SYDNEY (AP) — World Boxing Council (WBC) featherweight boxing champion Jeff Fenech of Australia will defend his title against Mexican Marcos Villasana at the National Tennis Centre in Melbourne April 1, promoter Bill Mordey confirmed Friday. Fenech, who has an 18-0 record, was in dispute with Mordey and the fight was in doubt. Villasana has failed in three previous attempts to win a world title but is ranked the No. 4 contender for Fenech's title by the WBC. Fenech, former holder of the IBF bantamweight and WBC super-bantamweight titles, had been at the centre of dispute between Mordey and his management team, the International Management Group (IMG). Mordey now will continue to act as Fenech's promoter while IMG will handle all of the champion's business affairs, Mordey said after a meeting Friday.

Fendick advances in New Zealand

AUCKLAND (AP) — Top-seeded Patty Fendick of the United States trounced Swede Maria Lindstrom 6-2, 6-0 Friday to advance to the semifinals of the \$75,000 Nutri-Metics International Women's Tennis Tournament. Fendick faces unseeded teenage compatriot Donna Faber Saturday. Faber, 17, upset eighth-seeded Beverly Bowes, also of the United States, 3-6, 6-3, 6-2. In other quarterfinal action, No. 6 Belinda Cordwell of New Zealand and No. 7 Jo Dine of Britain also advanced. Big-hitting, left-hander Cordwell, a semifinalist at last week's Australian Open, defeated third-seeded Conchita Martinez of Spain 6-4, 6-2, while Dine downed unseeded Wiltrud Probst of West Germany 6-4, 6-4.

Lendl, Connors, McEnroe in Volvo tourney

CHICAGO (AP) — Top-ranked Ivan Lendl, Jimmy Connors and John McEnroe, and two-time defending champion Tim Mayotte, all are entered in the 24-man field that begins competitions next week in the Volvo Tennis-Chicago Championship. The Czechoslovakian-born Lendl regained the world's No. 1 ranking by virtue of his recent victory at the Australian Open, the first leg of tennis' grand slam. Tournament promoters also announced Thursday that Americans Aaron Krickstein, ranked No. 14, and teenage sensation Michael Chang have agreed to play. Six teams — including two-time Australian Open champions Jim Pugh and Rick Leach — are entered in the doubles competition.

Jordan, Kuwait tie 1-1 on Davis Cup first day

By Munem Fakhoury
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan and Kuwait tied 1-1 in the first day of Davis Cup tennis play here Friday with a straight-sets victory by Jordan's Hani Ali Ali over Kuwait's Khalid Rashid after the Kingdom's Iyad Shehadeh lost to Kuwaiti captain Khalid Ashkenani in an earlier singles match.

Ali's 6-4, 6-2, 7-6 victory contrasted with Shehadeh's 6-2, 7-5, 6-1 loss to Ashkenani, who dominated the play. Shehadeh could not succeed in returning the Kuwait captain's powerful serves and at times it appeared that the Jordanian number two was unable to control the match against Ashkenani, who did not give him a chance to play close to the net.

According to the American coach of the Jordanian team, Shehadeh did not perform as well expected and committed several errors. The Kuwait player was notably better and drove hard and at times with powerful and quick serves which Shehadeh failed to return. "The court influenced the speed of the ball and thus gave me an advantage, especially with

my stroog serves," Ashkenani said. "My opponent was good, but I was better."

It was a different story with the Ali-Rashid match with both players following the Australian style of tennis by sending strong serves and dashing to the net to return the ball to the opponent, thus avoiding long exchanges of the ball. Ali won the first set 6-4 after a strong show of powerful serves by both players. Having secured the second set 6-2, he went ahead into the third with his skill in returning the ball with strooger serves. When Ali was ahead 5-3, Rashid appeared to have gained a firmness and started gaining till the set was tied at 5-5 and then 6-6. The tie-break marathon was on from then. Rashid sent the serve and gained a point and then tied



Jordan's non-playing captain and Kuwait's Khalid Ashkenani exchange flags at the outset of Friday's Davis Cup opening matches (photo by Abdullah Ayyoub)

the set 1-1 after conceding a point. Ali took control of the match from that point and scored four points in succession before the players exchanged places. The serve was with Ali, who again won a valuable point to make it 6-1. He failed to press the advantage but the Kuwaiti player gained the upper hand to make it 6-2. It was with sheer skill and

drawing from his experience that Ali tied the set with 7-6 in the duel that followed. Friday's matches, hosted in Jordan for the first time, were the first two of five scheduled matches in a best-of-five formula. The matches resume Saturday with Ali and Abdullah Khalil pitted against Kuwait's Ashkenani and Aiman Al Asboun in a doubles play.

Deputising for Her Majesty Queen Noor, Minister of Youth Awwad Kheifat attended the matches. The winner of the first round match in the Asia-Oceania Zone Group 2 will play Pakistan in April. One of the 12 teams in the group will advance to Group 1 play next year.

QPR launches crusade to be team of 1990s

LONDON (Agencies) — Trevor Francis's crusade to transform Queen's Park Rangers into English soccer's team of the 1990s begins in earnest Saturday with the visit of Millwall.

The former England striker and new Rangers manager spent almost £1 million (\$1.75 million) in 24 hours this week to bring Liverpool's Nigel Spackman and Aston Villa's Andy Gray to the west Londoners' Loftus Road home.

The two signings are Francis's opening moves in his bid to turn Rangers, currently fifth from bottom of the First Division, into one of England's top teams.

"I shall not be happy until I get a team that can challenge for the title," Francis said after securing the signature of Gray for £425,000 (\$745,000) Thursday.

"I hope that will be by the beginning of next season. I've bought two quality players and if there are others that become available I shall endeavour to bring them in."

Gray will launch his midfield partnership with Spackman, who cost Francis a club record £500,000 (\$875,000) Wednesday, against Millwall with his new manager singing his praises.

"I've always liked Andy," said Francis. "He epitomises everything that's good about the modern day footballer — a good athlete who likes to go forward and has an eye for goal."

Rangers' new midfield partnership faces a stern test against a high-flying Millwall side anxious for victory after being dumped out of the F.A. Cup by Liverpool last weekend and beaten 3-2 at

home by Norwich in the league the previous week.

League leaders Arsenal, who entertain second from bottom West Ham, will be eager to avenge their F.A. Cup humiliation by their London neighbours last month.

West Ham's 1-0 win in a third round replay at Highbury has left Arsenal to concentrate on securing their first championship since 1971.

EUROPEAN SOCCER

Victory could leave Arsenal six points clear at the top Saturday night if second-placed Norwich falter away to unpredictable Charlton.

Third-placed Coventry visits Middlesbrough while champions Liverpool, nine points adrift of Arsenal in fourth place, travels to bottom club Newcastle.

Lee Martin, who missed Manchester United's fourth round F.A. Cup win over Oxford last Saturday because of influenza, is back in the squad for Sunday's televised game at home to Tottenham.

Parc des Princes to face Maitre Racing.

Cantona, who failed in his bid Wednesday to sign with Barcelona, was suspending indefinitely from his club after throwing his jersey and leaving the field last Saturday during a friendly against Torpedo Moscow.

Italy

In Italy, a fresh injury scare hit

Dutch star Ruud Gullit Thursday in AC Milan's run-up to Sunday's league clash at Ascoli, though he thinks he will probably play.

Gullit has played in only a dozen of Milan's matches this season and has not trained for two days because of a swollen right knee.

Club officials said the problem was a recurrence of the injury that first halted Gullit last November and that the training ban was precautionary.

"I could have done without this stop but I think it is just precautionary," Gullit told reporters. "From what I can tell, I should make it on Sunday."

Gullit has been only a shadow of the player who was last season's European Footballer of the Year.

Even without him, Milan should in theory have little trouble with bottom-placed Ascoli but they are nine points adrift of league leaders Internazionale Milano with no realistic hope of retaining the title.

France

French soccer resumes after its seven-week winter break Saturday with Auxerre looking to steal the First Division lead, if only briefly, from Paris Saint-Germain.

Auxerre, two points down, will go in front if they beat titleholders Monaco, who will be without English international midfielder Glenn Hoddle and defender

JORDAN TENNIS FEDERATION

The Jordan Tennis Federation announces the launching of a Little League tennis for boys and girls between the ages of 7-16. Registration will be on Friday Feb. 10, 1989 from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., at Al Hussein Tennis Courts located at Al Hussein Sports City, opposite Martyr's Monument, North Gate, no. 4.

Registration fee J D 15. Course duration from March 4 to May 4, 1989.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ A10762 ♠ J983 ♣ 7 ♣ K3
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass
What do you bid now?
- Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ AKJ852 ♠ 7 ♠ AQ95 ♠ 63
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass
What do you bid now?
- Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ 9 ♠ J642 ♠ AK763 ♠ KQ6
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass
What do you bid now?
- Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ K10762 ♠ AJ ♠ KQ6 ♠ J104
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass
What do you bid now?
- Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ AK7 ♠ KJ984 ♠ K7632 ♠ —
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?
- Q.6—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ K1053 ♠ K6 ♠ AQ854 ♠ 43
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ 1 NT
What action do you take?
Look for answers on Monday.

Available for a limited time as a special offer is a two-for-one package of DOUBLES booklets. For your copies send \$3 to "GOREN DOUBLES," care this newspaper, P.O. Box 4426, Orlando, Fla. 32803-4426. Make checks payable to "Newspaperbooks."

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1989

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

—As Charted By The Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Blown up anticipation might leave you disappointed. Projected plans that are beyond realistic levels must be brought down to the earthy level of possibility.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19): You may feel that certain relationships are on a downward spiral. Find a way to break the silence, and don't hold grudges.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20): An early morning emergency will keep you busy. Someone will pull at your heartstrings. You can be an easy touch today.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21): Self-control may be difficult, but you can master it if you consider the consequences. Aspects today lack your usual communicative ability.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21): Someone who knows your sensitivities may be pushing your emotional buttons trying to get a response. Avoid those who are rude.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21): No grass will grow under your feet today. Take this energy and find people to have fun with, but be careful not to bend the rules too far.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22): If at first you don't succeed, try, try again, or so the saying goes. Keep beating the romantic drum and you will win in the end.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Pressure from someone close may have you burning inside most of the day. Do something personal for yourself.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): It is time to tackle a money problem. Look at additional income opportunities and enlist the cooperation of family.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): An even temper will help you through the day. Someone close can mislead you into a situation that you don't understand.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20): Time spent repairing and rebuilding will be well spent. Finishing old projects will be more valuable than starting new ones.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19): You are beaming with energy but may have difficulty getting others fired up to your level. Strike a balance between obligations and your needs.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20): Mental dreams keep the cobwebs out of the mind. Loneliness stems when others don't appreciate your poetic nature.

If Your Child Is Born Today: He or she will be an intellectual, creative individual who has the gift of logic and analysis. Your child's sensitive mind will thirst for information and facts that can later be used and studied. Your progeny may travel and change home environments frequently.

"The Stars Impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!
©1989, McNaught Synd.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



"We can cut our grocery bill by 60% if we learn to chew each bite 9,286 times."

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

RYKUM
HIEWL
CLAJAK
DORRAM

A FOUR-LETTER WORD THAT SOME PEOPLE FIND MOST "OBJECTIONABLE."

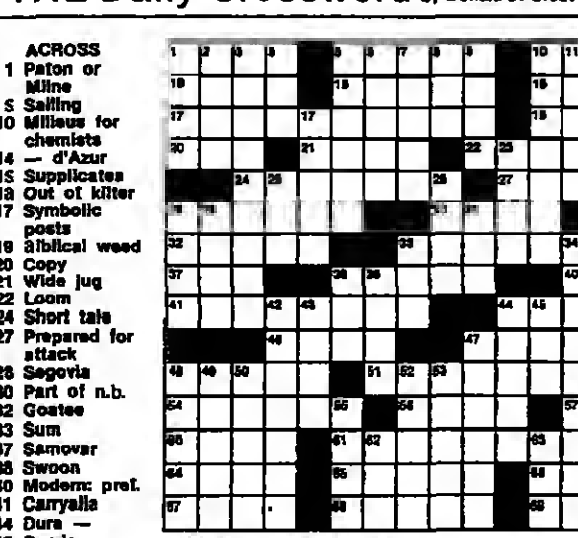
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: "O O O O"

(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: AWFUL PAPER JETSM HINDER
Answer: What nepotism means in the field of employment—TO PUT ON "HEIRS"

THE Daily Crossword by Donald B. Grant



- ACROSS**
- Patron of Mink
 - Sailing
 - Milieu for chemists
 - d'Azur
 - Supplicates
 - Out of kilter
 - Symbolic posts
 - Alfalfa weed
 - Copy
 - Wide jug
 - Loom
 - Short tale
 - Prepared for attack
 - Savaria
 - Part of n.b.
 - Goatee
 - Sum
 - Semovar
 - Sworn
 - Modern prof.
 - Caryalla
 - Dura
 - Comic
 - Johnson
 - Halcyon
 - Antle bones
 - Goddess of agriculture
 - Subsidies
 - Handy
 - US writer
 - Repetition
 - Track item
 - Lollipop
 - Mountain crest
 - Sea or six
 - Swallow
 - Furze
 - Wield back
- DOWN**
- Judicial proceedings
 - Swing attack
 - Concomitant
 - Born
 - Jonathan and McIntosh
 - Chant worker
 - Wield coast shrub
 - Inspect
 - Air fox
 - Football play
 - Frighten
 - Planet Victor
 - Rapidity
 - Reinforced
 - Harl
 - Hockey great
 - Shorty
 - Up near
 - Rom. tyrant
 - Baseball's Mel
 - "Whether — nobler."
 - Exploit
 - Young age
 - Long ago
 - Lard
 - Matured
 - Oriental
 - Fr. cheese
 - Paris subway
 - Metric unit
 - Navy worker
 - Fortune-teller's item
 - Have — to pick
 - Marker
 - Computer direction
 - Contacts
 - Male deer
 - Concert halls
 - Catch sight of
 - Sp. gold
 - Marchant's lure

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



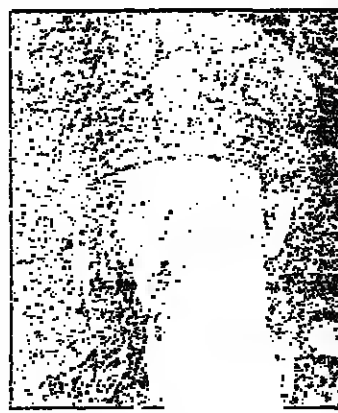
Andy Capp



Rodriguez takes over Stroessner toppled

ASUN — Paraguayan strongman Stroessner overthrown in an army revolt, rebel leader Rodriguez said Friday.

Rodriguez, commander of the powerful First Army Corps, said in a radio broadcast Friday morning he was "taking command of the country from this moment."



Alfredo Stroessner

"I communicate to you that General Stroessner has surrendered and finished his career in perfect health, deprived of liberty, being shown all human rights, at a residence within the First Army Corps," said Rodriguez, who is father-in-law to Stroessner's youngest son, Alfredo.

Argentine's ambassador to Paraguay said in a radio interview that Stroessner had fallen and the opposition forces were in control.

Stroessner, 71, the longest-serving leader in the Western Hemisphere, has been in power for 35 years. He had been criticised for his dictatorial and authoritarian style.

Gunfire broke out on Thursday night when tanks used by the rebels rumbled through the capital, firing shells near the presidential palace and police headquarters.

There was no immediate word on casualties after the clashes ended early Friday. Streets in the semitropical capital of 900,000 were deserted Friday morning.

"Order has been re-established, and with it all the human values of our entire constitution will be respected," Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez's message was first broadcast at 7:40 a.m. (1040 GMT) and repeated several times as Paraguayans in the capital learned for the first time that the only president they had known for 34 years apparently was ousted.

Stroessner had held absolute power in the landlocked South American country since ousting Federico Chavez in 1954. He was army commander-in-chief, doled out political favours and jobs to his allies and called anyone who opposed him a Marxist subversive. He frequently exiled political opponents.

Diplomats and political sources said Thursday that Rodriguez apparently was ordered to give up his command and retire or accept the post of defence minister. The reasons for the order were not known, and he reportedly refused.

He is associated with a faction of the ruling Colorado Party that supports limited democratisation. In his radio communique, Rodriguez said he and his men "left our barracks in defence of the dignity and the honour of the armed forces, for the full and total unification of the ruling Colorado Party, for the initiation of democratisation in Paraguay (and) for the respect of human rights."

Early Friday, radio reports quoted an infantry division commander, Brigadier-General Ismael Otazu, as saying the uprising was "unsubordinated but a correction." Colonel Dionisio Cabello told March 1 radio he was the new air force commander and pledged allegiance to Rodriguez.

Infantry divisions in three interior cities — Villarrica, San Juan Bautista and Concepcion — and an air force unit sided almost immediately with the rebels, the reports indicated.

On Friday, soldiers blocked the street in front of the national palace.



P.W. Botha

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — President P.W. Botha, recovering from a stroke suffered two

Botha quits as party leader

weeks ago, resigned Thursday as leader of the National Party but indicated he would stay on as head of state.

National Education Minister F.W. de Klerk was narrowly elected as the new leader of the governing party, strengthening speculation that he was Botha's heir apparent as president.

State radio said Botha, 73, told party officials in a letter that he was resigning his leadership post in order to concentrate on his presidential duties and to distance the presidency from partisan politics.

De Klerk, an attorney before he entered politics, appears to favour Botha's policies of limited and gradual race reform.

As education minister de Klerk, 52, has not been associ-

ated with any major reforms. He supported a controversial crackdown on anti-apartheid dissent at universities and has been active in trying to halt defections from the National Party to the extreme-right Conservative party.

At a news conference in Cape Town, de Klerk declined to discuss his political agenda. He said that if he wanted to propose any policy changes, "I would like first to have a discussion with the state president."

"A very special relationship will now have to develop between myself as leader-in-chief of the National Party on the one hand and the state president as chief executive on the other band," he said.

De Klerk declined to answer directly when asked if his selection as party leader made him the logical successor to Botha. He noted that his position had "no direct or formal constitutional implications."

The independent South African Press Association said de Klerk's selection as party leader "is a firm indicator that, should President Botha resign, he would succeed him."

South Africa's president is selected by an electoral college made up of parliament members from the majority parties in the three chambers of the legislature — white, Asian, and mixed-race. Under the existing system, the whites in the electoral college outnumber the Asian and mixed-race representatives combined and have full control of the process.

Racism swells, but Pretoria apathetic

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — In the mining town of Carletonville, officials this week voted to erect a fence to keep blacks off the civic centre's lawn.

In Johannesburg, a mob of whites threatened to kill an Indian man who hoped to be their neighbour.

Near Cape Town, a blond, five-year-old boy was expelled last week from an all-white nursery school. Wayne Shirley was "a lively and intelligent boy," the principal in Kraaifontein said, and he was legally classified as white, but he could not stay because his mother had mixed racial ancestry.

Practices like these pervade

South African society. What sets the country apart is not the existence of racism, but the fact that it is permitted, sometimes even mandated, by many of the people in power.

When right-wing whites re-segregated parks in the city of Segateng last year and blocked the Indian man from moving into their neighbourhood last weekend, they were scolded by the government and the press. But they had the law on their side.

Employers face no penalties if they hire according to race, but colourblind landlords face heavy fines. Government schools must practice segregation, and private schools are

entitled to do so. Municipal governments are empowered to bar blacks from parks, buses or beaches.

"The racists and bigots will exploit laws as long as they remain on the statute books," said Brian Curran, director of Lawyers for Human Rights.

President P.W. Botha's government has spoken out against racism with increasing frequency in recent years. In November, it banned a small white-supremacist group, and it has outlawed the incitement of racial hostility.

"If apartheid means ... racial discrimination and encroachment on human dignity, then I reject it out of hand,"

Botha said in 1986.

But rarely is the government's rhetoric accompanied by tough action. The recent banning of the white liberation movement has not been followed by steps against the larger, more powerful Afrikaner Resistance Movement, despite its white-supremacist ideology, Nazi-style symbols and paramilitary training programmes.

Nor did police disperse the mob which gathered outside a house in Johannesburg's Mayfair west district Sunday, and shouted threats at the Indian who planned to move his family into the white neighbourhood.

European reduction talks end after 17 years without accord

VIENNA, Austria (AP) — After more than 15 years of largely fruitless negotiations, talks on the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and the Warsaw Pact Thursday formally abandoned talks on reducing military forces in central Europe.

Characteristic of the deep divisions at the world's longest-running East-West arms negotiations was the fact that the two sides even had different names for the talks until the final round.

The negotiations will formally go down in history as the "negotiations on the mutual reduction of forces and armaments in central Europe." But the West had been calling them MBFR, or mutual and balanced force reduction talks.

The two military blocs halted their efforts after they agreed in a

separate round of preparatory talks to begin negotiations on conventional armed forces in Europe in Vienna March 6.

Unlike the previous conference which began in October 1973, the new talks are to involve all 23 member countries of the two alliances. They are to cover all of Europe "from the Atlantic to the Urals," thus encompassing much of the reductions area of the negotiations ended Thursday.

The direct participants of the previous talks were East and West Germany, Belgium, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Britain, Poland, Czechoslovakia, the Soviet Union, the United States and Canada. France, a special NATO member, did not take part even as an observer.

The Vienna negotiations failed mainly because the two sides could not concur on opposing

troop strengths, as well as methods to police eventual withdrawals and the permanency of such cuts.

Their termination had been widely expected ever since the start of mandate talks on the new European force reduction negotiations.

A joint communique Thursday said that "the extent of common ground has proved to be insufficient to enable the participants to agree on a treaty."

"Nevertheless, the positions of the two sides have converged on a number of issues," said the 20-line communique. "The participants have gained valuable experience and a clearer picture of what will be necessary to achieve mutually agreeable and verifiable reductions and limitations of forces and armaments in Europe."



Salvador Laurel

Laurel meets Marcos

HONOLULU (AP) — Philippine Vice-President Salvador Laurel met with ousted leader Ferdinand Marcos Thursday, and Marcos' son relayed a message to the Philippine government pleading for his critically ill father's return.

Laurel came to Hawaii without Philippine President Corason Aquino's blessing, with whom he has been at odds since taking office in 1986. Aquino has vowed that Marcos, who has been indicted on U.S. racketeering charges, would never return.

Laurel met with Marcos' doctors, his wife, Imelda, and Marcos himself, but refused to disclose the details of any of the conversations. An aide said Laurel would make a statement before leaving Hawaii Friday morning.

"I don't think he's going to take any plane rides. I just want to hear what he has to say," Laurel said before a 20-minute visit to the hospital.

Laurel was listed in critical but stable condition after Laurel's visit.

Later Thursday, Marcos' son, Ferdinand Junior or "Bong Bong," released a copy of a letter he said was relayed to Mrs. Aquino Wednesday night. The letter asked that his father be allowed to return to his homeland.

"I come to request nothing more than the basic human rights of all Filipinos to die in the Philippines," the letter said. "I therefore hope that you can see beyond your personal feelings, and by showing compassion, act to reconcile rather than further divide the nation."

Gandhi warns Pakistan against rocket, nuclear weapons tests

NEW DELHI (R) — Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi said Friday he had received reports Pakistan had tested a medium-range rocket and obtained material used to boost the power of nuclear weapons.

He told a public meeting in Bombay India would take steps to protect itself if the reports were true.

"In these circumstances, we cannot sit and watch the situation. We will take necessary steps and not allow the security of our country to be endangered," said Gandhi.

The Indian leader, whose meeting with Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto last De-

cember appeared to herald a new warmth in relations between the South Asian neighbours, quoted the reports as saying Pakistan had tested a rocket with a range of 640 kilometres.

He said Pakistan had obtained supplies of tritium from West Germany which could be used to produce a five or six-fold increase in the power of nuclear weapons.

Gandhi gave no further details but his comments came less than a month after Washington accused a West German firm of exporting beryllium to India in 1984 without the required permission of U.S. authorities.

Beryllium can also enhance the power of nuclear bombs but has

peaceful uses ranging from metal-

lurgy to plastics.

India exploded a nuclear device in 1974, but said it was for peaceful uses. It also accuses Pakistan of developing nuclear weapons, a charge Islamabad consistently denies.

India and Pakistan have fought three wars since 1947 but relations appeared to improve after Bhutto came to power.

Western diplomats said Gandhi's accusations appeared an attempt to counter the U.S. charge as well as declare to the world that India was failing to improve relations with Pakistan under Bhutto despite its best intentions.

Secret talks reported on N. Ireland government

LONDON (AP) — Leaders on both sides of the conflict in Northern Ireland have held secret talks on the future government of the British-ruled province, British media reported.

Northern Ireland has been ruled directly from London since the Northern Ireland assembly was dissolved amid growing strife in 1972, three years after an outbreak of religious and political violence.

Gordon Mahwinney, deputy leader of the province's middle-of-the-road Alliance Party, which is supported by Roman Catholics and Protestants, confirmed he was one of those who had taken part in the talks reported by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC).

But three other politicians — James Molyneux, leader of the Protestant official Unionist Party; the Reverend Ian Paisley, leader of the Protestant Democratic Un-

ionist Party; and John Hume, leader of the moderate Catholic Democratic and Labour Party — distanced themselves from the reports.

Hume said the BBC's version of what had taken place was "nonsense."

The BBC first reported the talks Thursday and then repeated the reports Friday.

"The discussions began four months ago in West Germany and were supported by the British and Irish governments," the BBC reported in the lead item on its world service radio news bulletin early Friday.

"Taking part have been officials of the two main Protestant parties, the ... social and democratic Labour Party and the Northern Ireland Alliance Party. ... they agreed that Protestants and Catholics could share power at all levels of government, in-

cluding control of the police," the BBC reported.

"A spokesman for the Alliance Party said there was a genuine willingness by all parties to find a solution," the report said.

The outlawed Irish Republican Army (IRA) fighting British rule in Northern Ireland and the IRA's legal political arm, Sinn Fein, apparently did not take part in the secret talks, the reports indicated. The IRA is fighting to reunite Northern Ireland, which is predominantly Protestant, with the Republic of Ireland, where 95 per cent of the people are Catholic.

The Anglo-Irish agreement signed Nov. 15, 1985 by British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and the prime minister of the Irish Republic, Garret Fitzgerald, gives the Dublin government a formal consultative role in the running of Northern Ireland.

'Tokyo is doing more to ease U.S.-Japan trade friction'

WASHINGTON (AP) — Japan is doing more than the United States to ease trade friction between the two nations, says Mike Mansfield, former U.S. Senate Democratic leader and ambassador to Japan for a record 11 years.

"Japan has done well, my country must do better" in taking the economic side of the trade dispute, Mansfield said. "The dollar trade imbalance has been the two countries' main problem in favour of Japan," Mansfield said in a blunt speech at the Japanese embassy.

Mansfield, who retired last month at the age of 85, spoke after visiting Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita presented him the first Japanese decoration made in the name of the new emperor, Akihito, in recognition of service to friendship between the two countries.

U.S.-Japan relations "over the moment are in very good shape — but only for the moment," he said. "In security (military) matters, we are true partners. In foreign aid, Japan this year will

be number one in dispensing of its largesse."

He noted that Japan has budgeted more on foreign aid than the United States this year.

Mansfield said the trade imbalance was the only cloud on the horizon. He then congratulated Takeshita "for what you have done in bringing about a restructuring of the Japanese economy" by increasing domestic demand and "doing what you can in bringing about an end to the tremendous imbalance between our two countries."

He predicted Japan and the United States would solve their differences through cooperation rather than confrontation "and together usher in the century of the Pacific" for the world.

Spokesmen for both sides said Bush assured Takeshita his new administration would resist pressure in the United States for trade protectionism and isolationism. The Japanese leader said his government is prepared to assume greater global responsibilities and desires frequent policy consultation with Washington.

But U.S. concern about Japanese trade rivalry and surpluses is aired more bluntly at the Capitol than at the White House.

Nevertheless, Takeshita told Bush Thursday in a ceremony concluding nearly three hours of talks and a working lunch, said: "No nation can replace the United States as the leader of the democracies around the world."

Bush put it more simply, declaring, "We respect one another, we need one another ... we will continue to work together for the good of our peoples and of all humanity."

Earlier, during their closed door meeting, a Japanese spokesman said Takeshita told Bush "we want the United States to be strong and it is our intention to be the most reliable partner of the United States."

Predicting a stream of "peace offensives" from Moscow under President Mikhail Gorbachev, Takeshita noted that Japan has made no progress persuading the Soviet Union to return former Japanese northern islands taken at the end of World War II.

Custody probe findings anger aborigines

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — Families of aborigines who died in police custody were angered Friday at a government report on the deaths that accused police of fabricating evidence but stopped short of recommending criminal charges.

The report, issued Thursday, found no evidence of foul play in four of 107 deaths being investigated. The report said, however, that the deaths probably could have been avoided.

Judge James Muirhead was ordered by the government of Prime Minister Bob Hawke in 1987 to investigate the deaths of 44 aborigines who died in police custody between 1980 and 1987.

Muirhead said two of the deaths were apparently protests by the aborigines in custody that went "horribly wrong" and that the other two aborigines died from natural causes. He set no date for the commission's next report.

A grieving Alice Dixon, whose son Kingsley was found hanging in his cell in Adelaide jail in 1987, wept when she heard the finding. "I expected some retribution. They're murdering our people, our boys, and they're getting away with it," she said. "My son is dead, other sons are dead and others are grieving and this is the result we are going to get."

Lila Murray, whose 21-year-old son Eddie was found hanging in 1981, said, "I've never believed police." She said the finding her son took his own life

"shatters my faith in white justice."

Muirhead, 63, quit two weeks ago as head of the royal commission into aboriginal deaths to accept an appointment, beginning in April, as administrator in the northern territory. Muirhead said the investigation's workload was too heavy.

He was scheduled to have finished his report on the 44 deaths by last month but said the additional deaths had delayed the work by two more years.

The National Aboriginal and Islander Legal Service, which helped pressure the government to investigate the deaths, criticised the inquiry Friday.

Director Paul Coe said the reports did not take a "fair look" at the criminal justice system, nor

make recommendations of legal action against individual police officers.

Australia has about 160,000 indigenous aborigines, about one per cent of the nation's 16 million population. Government statistics show aborigines have many social and economic problems.

Aborigines are six times more likely to go to jail than other Australians, government statistics show. Aboriginal activists have accused police of brutality in the deaths. Most of the offenders were arrested and placed in police cells on minor charges such as being drunk and disorderly.

The newspaper said the report "documented the tragic consequences of routine mistreatment, official indifference and deepening distress and despair."

COLUMN 8

Diana charms New Yorkers

NEW YORK (AP) — Princess Diana, who has enchanted New York's social elite and working-class residents, is to visit Harlem hospital and meet children with AIDS Friday, her third and last day of her first official visit here. On Thursday night, she swept down a sparkling marble staircase — like Cinderella at the prince's ball — to join the guests at a gala post opera dinner in her honour. The princess, dazzling in a white evening gown with beaded bolero, paused on the steps for a moment as a four-year-old girl and her brother, seven, the children of the co-chairwoman of the event, presented her with a small bouquet of flowers. As Diana approached her seat at the head table in the atrium — known as the winter garden — of the world financial centre, the approximately 800 guests, who had watched her descend in awed silence, broke into applause. "I was thinking how poised she was," said Richard Fisher, the president of Morgan Stanley Group Incorporated. "I was surprised. You think of her as young and she was so regal." The elegant sit-down dinner in the atrium Thursday night was the princess's last event in a busy day that took her from a family's apartment at a lower east side homeless shelter to FAO Schwarz's treasure trove of toys to the Brooklyn Academy of Music for the American debut of the Welsh National Opera.

Close changes looks after movie

WASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP) — Glenn Close, star of the movie "Fatal Attraction," says she had to change her appearance because of the recognition she received after her performance as Alex, the enraged jilted lover. "I was surprised the picture became the phenomenon it did," Close said of the film in a recent interview. "It was amazing. I even cut my hair because people were jumping out of my way. My hair stylist says people come in wanting their hair 'done like Glenn Close's.'" Her blond hair was in a distinctive curly style for the film. "I am kind of an average-looking woman and, until recently, I've been able to travel around pretty much without hindrance. Alex has changed all that, too. I don't think any of us realised how emotional people would be about 'Fatal Attraction' and how much they'd hate my guts and want to see me blown away (killed)."

Schoolgirl turns tables on Jackson

LONDON (AP) — English schoolgirl Elizabeth Ascroft says she turned the tables on pop star Michael Jackson by presenting him with a T-shirt bearing the slogan "I've met Elizabeth Ascroft." Elizabeth, 12, won a contest to attend one of Jackson's concerts in Los Angeles last week and meet him backstage. The T-shirt was her own idea, she said. "I've got hundreds of things with his name on, so I thought he would like something with mine," Elizabeth, from Stourbridge in the west Midlands, said she got a thank you and a big hug from Jackson.

Cocker spaniels are U.S. favourites

NEW YORK (AP) — Cocker spaniels are the favourite dog in the United States for the sixth year in a row, while Labrador retrievers have edged out poodles for the number two spot, the American Kennel club says. The Annual Canine Census (ACC), based on the number of dogs registered among each breed by ACC, ranks poodles third in 1988, followed by golden retrievers, German shepherds and chow chows — the latter three unchanged from 1987. Rottweilers moved from 12th to seventh, while beagles fell one position to eighth. Dachshunds were unchanged at ninth, while miniature schnauzers slipped two rungs to 10th place.

Non-stop balloon flight planned

NEW YORK (R) — A British adventurer and a U.S. filmmaker unveiled plans Wednesday to make the first non-stop balloon flight around the world, a 40,000 kilometre voyage set to begin in California at the end of March. "It's the ultimate challenge," said 44-year-old British balloonist Julian Nott, who made the announcement at New York's explorers club with 34-year-old Eugene "Buddy" Squires, an award-winning documentary cinematographer from Cleveland.

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